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PICTURESQUE VIEWS

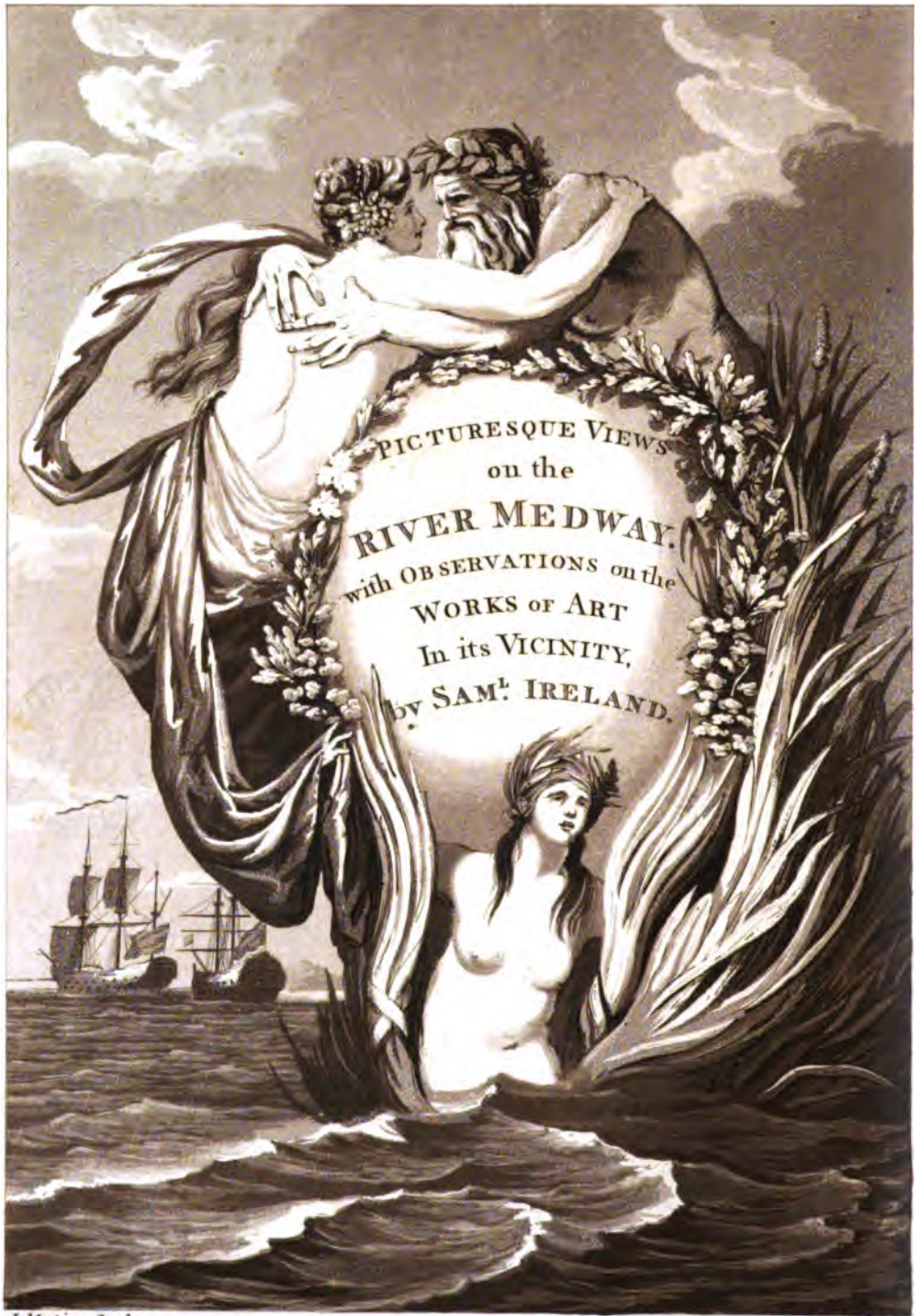
ON THE

RIVER MEDWAY,

&c. &c. &c.

" It fortun'd then, a ſolemn Feaſt was there
" To all the Sea-Gods and their fruitfull ſeede,
" In honour of the Spouſalls which then were
" Betwixt the *Medway* and the *Thames* agreed.
" Long had the *Thames* (as we in records reed)
" Before that day her wooed to his bed;
" But the proud Nymph would for no wordly meed,
" Nor no entreatie to his Love be led;
" 'Till now at laſt relenting She to him was wed."

FAIRIE Q. Cant. II. Book 4.


PICTURESQUE VIEWS
on the
RIVER MEDWAY.
with OBSERVATIONS on the
WORKS of ART
In its VICINITY,
by SAM.L IRELAND.
I. Mortimer. Inv.t
C. Apostool. Sculp.t

PICTURESQUE VIEWS,

ON THE

RIVER MEDWAY,

FROM

THE NORE

TO THE

VICINITY OF ITS SOURCE IN SUSSEX:

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

ON

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND OTHER WORKS OF ART

IN ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY

SAMUEL IRELAND,

AUTHOR of "A PICTURESQUE TOUR through HOLLAND, BRABANT, and PART of FRANCE,"
And of "PICTURESQUE VIEWS on the RIVER THAMES."

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY T. AND J. EGERTON, WHITEHALL.

M,DCC,XCIII.

Gough Add. Gen. Top
4° 49

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

THE

Counteſs Dowager of Aylesford.

MADAM,

AS a teſtimony of that deference which I owe to a Patroneſs of the Fine Arts, and the reſpect and veneration due to that more exalted character of the Friend to Humanity; permit me to inſcribe to your Ladyſhip this attempt to delineate the Pictureſque

Picturesque Scenery of the River Medway; a river, which, though it spreads abundant fertility around the valleys through which it flows, is yet rivalled by those blessings so liberally dispensed by your beneficent hand. I am,

MADAM,

With all due Respect,

YOUR LADYSHIP'S,

Very obliged and

Obedient Servant,

SAM^L. IRELAND.

NORFOLK-STREET,
STRAND,
MARCH 1, 1793.

PREFACE.

"From royal tower'd THAME to MEDWAY ſmooth."

THIS volume of Pictureſque Scenery on the River Medway may not improperly be conſidered, as a continuation of a former work on the ſubject of the Thames.

THE confluence of theſe rivers naturally led the author into a wiſh to explore the beauties of this more gentle, yet in ſome reſpects equally important, River.

THE views, ſelected in the courſe of this work, form the natural and artificial ſcenery

of this rich and fertile county; and are repreſented with that fidelity, which the author flatters himſelf will entitle him to the patronage of a diſcerning public.

WHERE he has been conſcious that the ſame ſubject had been delineated by others, he has endeavoured ſo to vary the point of view, as to render the objects materially different; and, in ſome inſtances, has been induced to hope he may have made a more favourable ſelection.

THE original deſign of the annexed frontiſpiece is from the ſkilful hand of his late ingenious friend, John Mortimer. It applied ſo happily to the fine poetical imagery of our bard Spenſer on the ſuppoſed marriage of the THAMES and MEDWAY, as to leave the

Author

Author almoſt in doubt; whether, when the ſketch was made, the Painter had not an eye to the Poet. This idea receives additional ſupport from a knowledge that Spenſer was the favourite poet of the artiſt, and that he had ſeveral times thrown out hints of his intention to make deſigns from the moſt ſtriking paſſages in Spenſer's works.

THE flattering approbation beſtowed on the Author's former work, the "Pictureſque "Beauties of the River Thames," induced him to purſue the preſent inquiry: and he preſumes the idea of delineating the river ſcenery of this country, in faithful portraits, may be ſaid to have originated from himſelf; as no work avowedly with this intention had been announced, previous to the publication of his propoſals.

THE river Severn, in point of conſequence, is the next object of inveſtigation: but the Drawings and Plates of the Warwickſhire Avon being in ſuch a ſtate of forwardneſs, as to enable the Author to publiſh them in the courſe of the preſent year, he is induced to give the preference to this leſſer River, which yet, as having given birth to our immortal SHAKESPEAR, is entitled to early attention. This work will be comprized in one volume.

THE Drawings and part of the Plates of the Severn being finiſhed, that work will follow as early as poſſible; to which the Somerſetſhire Avon will at a future period be a proper appendage.

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PRINTS

CONTAINED IN

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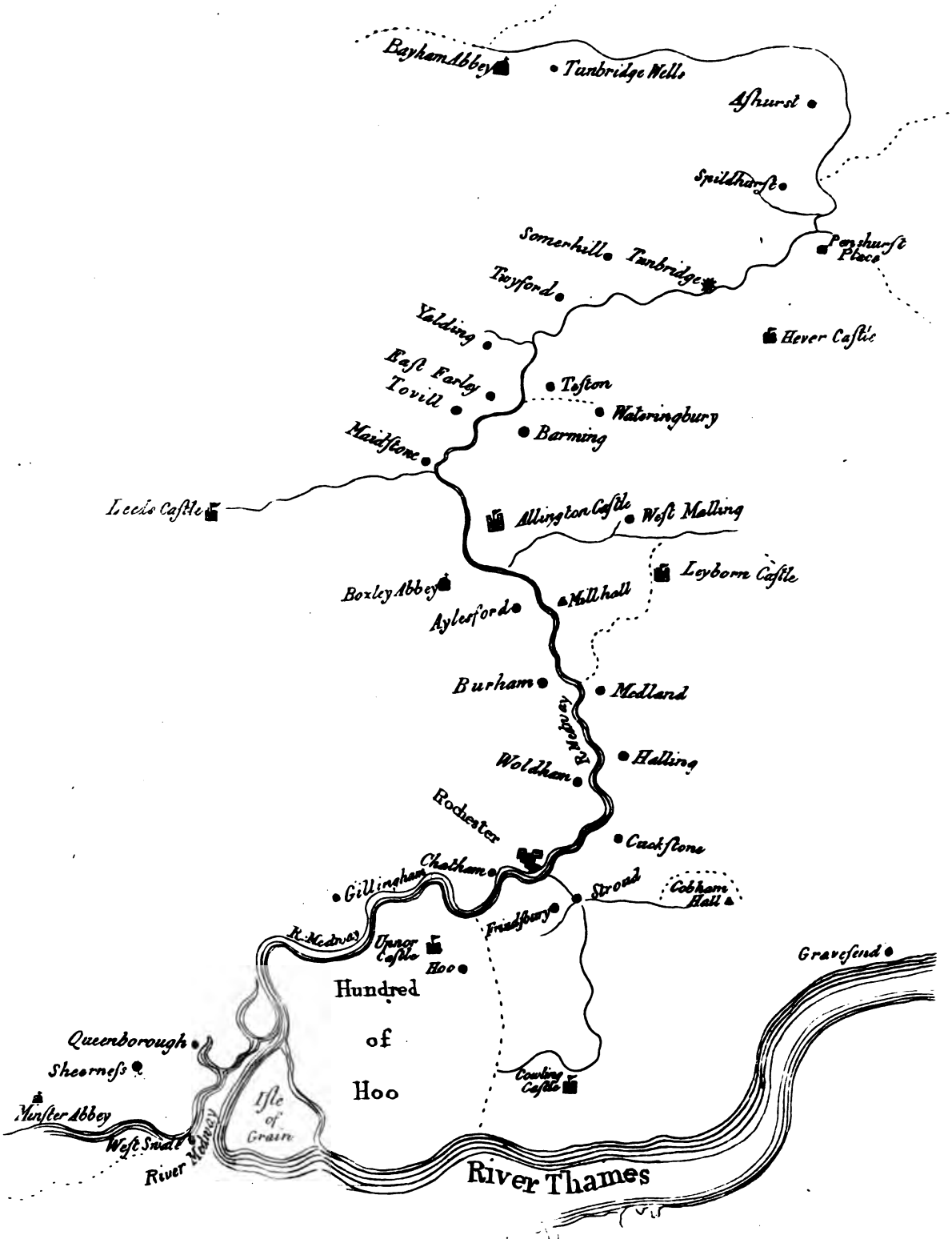
Page 67, *for* Joſeph Brooke, Eſq. *read* John Longley, Eſq. the preſent



Course of the RIVER MEDWAY *from the* NORE, *to the Vicinity of* BAYHAM ABBEY, *in* SUSSEX.

Sheernieſs battery at the entrance of the River Medway

Picturesque Views

ON THE

RIVER MEDWAY, &c.

SECTION I.

" Kent, in the Commentaries Cæsar writ,
" Is term'd the civil'st place of all this isle;
" Sweet is the country, beauteous, full of riches,
" The people liberal, valiant, active, worthy."

SHAKSPEAR.

OF the several rivers which lend their aid in fertilizing this celebrated county, the present subject of enquiry, The MEDWAY, is deservedly in the first rank. This river, though in extent and consequence inferior to the Thames, has yet its peculiar beauties;

and, in ſome reſpects, in point of romantic ſcenery, juſtly claims a preeminence. Its reaches are ſhort and ſudden; and the beautiful meandering of its courſe affords that perpetual diverſity of objects which cannot fail to attract and yield gratification to the admirers of rural ſcenery.

THE following lines of Sir Richard Blackmore, though no very popular writer, not unpoetically, but certainly with the truth of nature, deſcribe the irregular courſe of this river:

" Whoſe wanton tide in wreathing volumes flows,
" Still forming reedy iſlands as it goes;
" And, in meanders, to the neighbouring plain,
" The liquid ſerpent draws its ſilver train."

THE Medway, originally denominated Vaga by the ancient Britons, from the Saxons received the additional ſyllable of MED, ſignifying Mid, or Middle, to denote its courſe through

through the centre of the kingdom of Kent: and hence its compound appellation Med-vaga, or Medwage, which is now modernized into Medway. The entrance to this river from the Thames is at the weſternmoſt point of the iſle of Shepey, by a narrow branch of the ſea, called the Swale.

I CALL this a branch of the ſea, becauſe at the eaſtern point of this iſland, the Swale, in an extenſive frith, communicates itſelf with the ocean. And as through each of theſe channels our river Medway pours its waters into the great flood, I have thought it my duty, as a part of the ſubject, to notice ſuch ſtriking pictureſque objects, as the eye commands from the banks, waſhed by the waters of this river.

THE Swale was formerly accounted part of the river Thames, and was the uſual paſ-

ſage for ſhipping between London and the north Foreland.

ANCIENT hiſtorians frequently ſtyle Sandwich, in the Saxon tongue Lundenwic; which ſignifies the Thames mouth, and Leland ſays the town of Milton ſtands "on an arm of "the Tamiſe;" and that "Queenborough "is entering into the mayne Tamys."

THE entrance to our river, however it may properly be denominated, is well defended by the extenſive battery and fort at Sheerneſs, erected on a peninſula of the north-weſt point of the iſle of Shepey. The ſite on which this fort was built, in the reign of Charles I. was only a ſwamp, or moraſs; but this entrance being an avenue both to the river Thames and our great naval arſenal at Chatham, it was thought of ſuch importance to the maritime intereſts of this country,

country, as to be afterwards drained and made capable of receiving a ſmall fort of twelve guns, which, at the period of the reſtoration, was erected and thought ſufficient for its defence. But in the war which broke out ſoon after with the Dutch, a power that conteſted with us the empire of the ſea and whoſe ports lay very near our coaſts, this fort was, in the public opinion, deemed inſufficient for ſecurity: early therefore in the year 1669, Charles II. made a journey hither, in the depth of winter, accompanied by Sir Martin Beckman, his chief engineer, and other officers; and at this time a more extenſive plan of defence was determined upon; but the tardineſs of execution, which too often rendered the plans of this motley monarch abortive, had a fatal effect in the preſent inſtance; for the Dutch, on the 10th of July, in the ſame year, having made their memorable attempt on this beggarly fort, and on the royal navy, which at that time was in

no better ſtate of defence, they razed all the works to the ground, and then landed their troops, &c.; after which, with little reſiſtance, they ſailed up the river; and, having conſiderably damaged our ſhipping, returned unmoleſted to Sheerneſs, where they took on board the men they had left, and ſailed away in triumph for the coaſts of Eſſex and Suffolk.

In ſo wretched a ſtate was the defence of this country at that period; its capital expoſed, and the very exiſtence of its marine endangered in a war provoked by its abandoned monarch, for the purpoſe of gratifying the ambition, or rather religion of France, and ſupplying his own licentious and expenſive pleaſures. And, though we muſt lament the baneful influence of prerogative and monarchical power over a people neither leſs wiſe or leſs brave than their deſcendants, it would be hardly juſt to ſay of them that this took place altogether

ther becauſe they were either too much relaxed in principle, or too much ſeduced by royal example; but, having experienced the inſincerity and fraud of fanatical pretenſions, and in ſome reſpects the more alluring miſchiefs of pſeudo patriotiſm, they did not make either ſo reſolute a ſtand againſt the flood of licentiouſneſs that poured in upon them, or watched the acts of authority with ſo neceſſary a jealouſy as had at any other hour become them to do, and which ſo much diſtinguiſhed and entitled them to our eternal gratitude in the ſucceeding reign.

Soon after theſe depredations the alarm of the nation became ſo great as to render it neceſſary that even a monarchy ſo highly upheld ſhould give immediate ſecurity to this place; a regular plan of fortification was therefore begun, to which many additions have been made. Since the above period, a royal dock has likewiſe been conſtructed

ſtructed here for the building of ſmall ſhips of war, yachts, &c. but intended chiefly for the repair of ſuch as had met with any ſudden accident. The yard is under the inſpection of the commiſſioner of the navy reſiding at Chatham; from which place the principal ſupply of water for the uſe of this garriſon, was formerly received; but that expence has within a few years been much reduced by the conſtruction of a deep well, within half a mile of the town. This well is worked by horizontal wheels that will raiſe, with a ſmart breeze of wind, two tons of water within the hour; a ſupply thought ſufficient for the wants of the place, and ſuch as has made only one veſſel neceſſary for bringing water to Sheerneſs, and even that is now conſidered rather as a job than matter of neceſſity.

The old ſhips of war ſtationed here are termed Water Breakers, from their breaking the

the violence of the tides. The hulks are occupied by ſixty or ſeventy families, and chimnies of brick are raiſed from the lower gun-deck, which give them the whimſical appearance of a floating-town.

Minster Abbey &c.

SECTION II.

THE iſle of Shepey, with which the courſe of our river and ſubject have thus connected us, was called by the Saxons Sceapige, or Ovinia, that is, the Iſland of Sheep, from the number of ſheep continually feeding on it: it is about thirteen miles in length, and near ſix at its greateſt breadth. The cliffs are about ſix miles in length, the higheſt of which is above the village of Minſter, where they are not leſs than thirty yards in perpendicular height; they conſiſt of clay, and, being conſtantly waſhed at their baſes by the tides, are continually falling upon the ſhore; and a whole acre is ſaid at once to have fallen upon the beach below, leaving the corn entire on the ſurface, which, in that ſituation, has grown to maturity, and been reaped with ſmall loſs to the owner.

THE moſt fertile, as well as the pleaſanteſt part of this iſland, is in the neighbourhood of Minſter, which is elevated in its ſituation, rich in verdure, and fruitful in corn. The many noble and extenſive views from this ſpot, particularly towards the channel to the north-eaſt, and of the Nore to the weſtward, with the agreeable rides in its vicinity, would render it no unpleaſant retreat for the ſummer months.

THE pariſh of Minſter takes its name from Minſtre, which, in the Saxon language, ſignifies a monaſtery, or religious houſe. The annexed view is taken from the ſmall remains of a building of that kind, reported to have its origin as early as 673, from Sexburga, its foundreſs, one of the daughters of Annas, King of Eaſt Anglia, widow of Ercombert, King of Kent, and mother of King Egbert. From her ſon and ſovereign, ſhe obtained lands, in this pariſh, to endow a monaſtery for

for ſeventy-ſeven nuns, of which ſhe became herſelf the firſt abbeſs. This monaſtery ſuffered conſiderably from the Daniſh invaſions, and was at length nearly deſtroyed by them, in which ſtate it remained till the year 1130, when it was re-edified and ſupplied with benedictine nuns, by William Corboil, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and dedicated to St. Mary and St. Sexburga. At the diſſolution, the annual revenue of this monaſtery, with all its poſſeſſions, amounted to no more than one hundred and twenty-nine pounds ſeven ſhillings and ten-pence: it contained only ten nuns, beſides their prioreſs, Alicia Crane, to whom the King granted a penſion of fourteen pounds, during her life. The manor of Minſter, with the ſite of the monaſtery, was ſoon after granted to Sir Thomas Cheiney, from whom it deſcended to his ſon Henry, afterwards created Lord Cheiney, of Tuddington, in the county of Bedford. In conſequence of his profuſe manner of living, it

was

was at length alienated, and, falling into the hands of Queen Elizabeth, ſhe granted it to Sir Thomas Hoby, of Biſham, in the county of Berks. All that remains of this extenſive monaſtery, is ſuppoſed, by Wever, to have been only its gateway. This remain of the abbey is connected with the church by a long wall, which, however neceſſary for the ſecurity of this ſpot, as a repoſitory of the dead, ſhuts out from the living viſitor ſuch an extenſive view of the ocean, as would otherwiſe give a ſplendid idea of the naval and commercial character of our nation. I have, in the annexed view, given a portrait of the place, in which the wall is omitted. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Sexburga, is a ſmall, but venerable ſtructure, in which are ſeveral monuments deſerving attention, particularly that of Sir Thomas Cheiney, who obtained the original grant of this manor. Here was alſo, and that not long ſince, to be found in this church,

church, a curious memorial of a ſculpture of very ancient times; it was, itſelf, of unknown date, but was inlaid in the manner of our early funeral inſcriptions, and ran as follows:

" Hic jacent Rogerus Norwood et Bona, uxor ejus,
" Sepulti ante conqueſtum."

THE plate, whether of braſs, or of any more precious metal, is not now to be found; it is ſaid that it has recently been removed for better ſecurity, and it is alſo ſaid by a clergyman. One would hope, for the credit of theſe public repoſitories of the dead, and for the honour of the church, in whoſe hands they are lodged as a ſacred truſt, and for the uſe of hiſtoric evidence, which the antiquarian might expect in ſuch places at leaſt to find unviolated, that this rapine muſt have been committed at ſome earlier and more licentious period. The church generally holds faſt what it gets, and yet, with all its tenacity,

city, inſtances have been known in which it has committed depredations upon itſelf.

THE monument of Sir Robert De Shurland, who, with many other gentlemen of Kent, was created a Knight Banneret by Edward I. for his gallant behaviour at the ſiege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, is worthy notice. The monument is in a decayed ſtate, and the figures much defaced; I have here preſerved a ſlight ſketch of its outline.

THE

THE Knight is repreſented beneath a gothic arch croſs-legged, with a ſhield on his left arm, in an attitude much like that of a Knight Templar, an armed page at his feet, and on his right ſide the head of a horſe emerging out of the ſea. Of this Knight and the horſe's head many ridiculous tales have been propagated, to which the vane on the tower of the church in the figure of a horſe's head (whence the appellation of Horſe Church) has added not a little embarraſſment. This ſtory, very current among the common people, however contemptible in itſelf, I ſhall yet repeat, as a ſpecimen of the credulity of the paſt, as well as the preſent, day: it will be found in Harris's Hiſtory of Kent, p. 108, in the following words. "Sir Robert Shurland "having, upon ſome diſguſt at a prieſt, buried "him alive, ſwam on his horſe two miles "through the ſea to the King, who was then

" on ſhipboard near this iſland, and, hav-
" ing obtained his pardon, ſwam back again
" to the ſhore, where, being told his horſe
" had performed this by magic art, he cut off
" his head. About a twelvemonth after
" which, riding a hunting near the ſame
" place, the horſe he was then upon ſtum-
" bled and threw him upon the ſcull of his
" former horſe, by which he was ſo much
" bruiſed, that it cauſed his death; in me-
" mory of which, the figure of a horſe's
" head was placed by him on his tomb."

THE horſe's head may have been probably placed there to expreſs his affection for a favourite horſe which had been the means of ſaving his life, by ſwimming with him acroſs the Swale; or, as Phillipot obſerves, it may poſſibly allude to a grant of wreck of the ſea beſtowed on him by Edward I. in the tenth year of his reign; which

which privilege is always eſteemed to reach as far into the water as, upon the loweſt ebb, a man can, upon a horſe, ride in and touch any thing with the point of his lance.

THIS curious relation is thrown into a kind of doggerel metre, by the late Mr. Forreſt, of York Buildings, in his account of a tour made to this place by Hogarth, himſelf, and others.

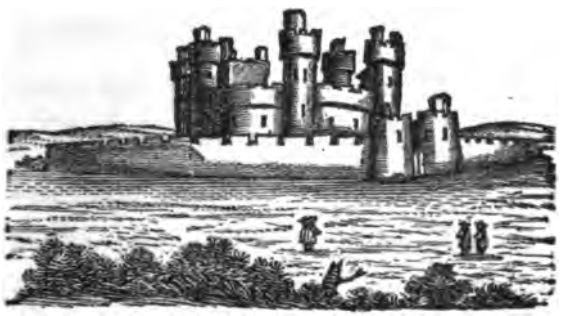
ABOUT four miles eaſt of Minſter, and within the manor of Shurland, ſtands the manſion many years ſince occupied by the Cheineys, but anciently by the Shurlands beforementioned: the houſe was built by Sir Thomas Cheiney, in the reign of Elizabeth, with the materials which he brought from Chilham Caſtle, formerly the reſidence of that family. Shurland houſe is ſpacious, and has an air of ſolemn grandeur; but in the late repair it underwent, having loſt its

embattlements, gothic windows, and other ancient decorations, it is rendered no longer worthy attention as a ſpecimen of antiquity. It was in the hands of the crown till the ſecond year of James I. by whom it was granted to Philip Herbert, younger brother to William, Earl of Pembroke, in whoſe family it ſtill remains. The whole of this manor claims an exemption from the payment of tythes at this time.

FROM hence, by a pleaſant and good road, we come to Queenborough, at the ſouth-weſt point of the iſle of Shepey. This town and caſtle are reported to have been built from a model or deſign of William of Wyckham, ſurveyor of the works to Edward III. The caſtle was erected, ſays Camden, to quote the King's own words, " as being pleaſant in ſituation, " the terror of his enemies, and the com- " fort of his ſubjects." The borough, with the

the right of repreſentation in parliament, was added by him in honour of Philippa of Hainault, his queen, thence called Queenborough.

Of this caſtle, as no traces are remaining, I have ſubjoined a ſketch of it from a ſcarce print by Hollar, ſaid to be the only genuine view extant, that has been engraved.



The parliament, after the death of Charles I. in 1650, ordered a ſurvey of it to be made, when its value was eſtimated at

at one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-two pounds twelve ſhillings. It was ſoon after ſold to a Mr. John Wilkinſon, by whom the whole of it was taken down, and the materials removed. The moat that ſurrounded it is ſtill viſible. In its center is a well forty fathom deep, which remained a long time choaked up; but in 1723 it was opened by order of the commiſſioners of the navy, and has proved of great utility to this place, as well as to the inhabitants of Sheerneſs.

The town, notwithſtanding the celebrity of its architect has, from the tranſitory condition of all ſublunary things, no traces of its original form; the caſtle we have likewiſe remarked is no more; but in this once famed place, ſo royally recommended, that comfortable refreſhment ſhould be wanting, may well afford matter of ſurprize to the traveller.

So

So near the ſea we neither found oyſters though in ſeaſon, nor even mutton, from the abundance of which this iſland is ſaid to have received its denomination of Shepey. Having no luxuries of the table to detain us, we rambled, as travellers are apt to do, into the church-yard, and were enabled at leaſt to feed the imagination with a whimſical alluſion to the different ſtages of our "ſtrange eventful hiſtory," which we never remember to have met with in any other author, grave or ludicrous:

"Our life is nothing but a winter's day,
"Some only break their faſt, and ſo away;
"Others ſtay dinner, and depart full fed,
"The deepeſt age but ſups, and goes to bed.
"He's moſt in debt that lingers out the day,
"Who dies by times, has leſs and leſs to pay."

QUITTING Queenborough, and croſſing the Swale, we now enter the Medway, a river

river, which, by the depth of its channel and ſoftneſs of its bed, is rendered not only the beſt, but, perhaps, the only perfectly ſecure harbour for large ſhips in the kingdom.

THE firſt object worthy of notice, in going up this river is Stangate creek, which is on the ſouth ſide of it, and about three miles from its entrance. Here hoſpitals or lazarettos are built on the hulks of two forty-four gun ſhips, which, from their being roofed and tiled, have a ſingular and amphibious kind of appearance. On board theſe veſſels a regular quarantine is eſtabliſhed for all ſhips, coming from the Levant and other ſuſpected places, to prevent the infection of the plague, or other contagious diſorders which may be brought into the kingdom.

A LITTLE above Stangate, at Colemouth,

is a creek on the oppoſite ſide of the river, which ſeparates the iſle of Grain from the hundred of Hoo: this water is denominated the Stray, and empties itſelf into the Thames at what is called North Yenlet. I am informed it has been thought expedient to dam up this water of Yenlet, in order to avoid the increaſe of ſmuggling. Whatever advantages may have been gained on that ſcore, the navigation has certainly been much impeded by the neceſſity of going round the iſland. On the border of this creek, in the iſle of Grain, a conſiderable ſalt work has been erected.

PASSING up the Medway, the Kentiſh hills afford a pleaſing view; yet the diſtant objects, though highly enriched with verdure and village ſcenery, are too much expanded and unconnected for the pencil. The marſhy lands on either ſide the river

yield but little foreground for a landſcape, which, to be perfect, requires ſome prominent feature to attract and compoſe the eye.

TURNING a point of land, towards the village of Hoo, the landſcape greatly improves, and the ſcenery is more happily diverſified by the hills of Brompton, the church of Gillingham, Chatham, and the range of buildings in the dock-yard that ſurround it.

I CANNOT paſs the hundred of Hoo without adverting to its characteriſtical circumſtances and ſoil, as recorded by Hollingſhed, who was a man of Kent, and who obſerves, that in his time it was nearly an iſland, and that

" He that rideth in the hundred of Hoo,
" Beſides pilfering ſeamen, ſhall find dirt enow."

IT is ſtill notorious for its aguiſh air; which is ſaid to have removed many a yeoman's

man's wife, who was not a native of the ſpot, and to have enabled him again to ſeek another by the operation of the ſame cauſes, ſoon again to meet the ſame fate.

THE hundred of Hoo lies in a bend, between the Medway and Thames, in form reſembling a ham, which, in the Saxon, is hoh or ho; and thence probably the origin of the name of this place.

SECTION III.

WE are here induced to digreſs from the bank of the Medway to contemplate the ſtately remains of Cowling caſtle, which is about three miles diſtant.

THIS noble ruin ſtands about the centre of the hundred of Hoo, and, from its ſituation, was intended as a defence both for the river Thames and Medway, being placed nearly at equal diſtances from each. It was a ſtrong fortreſs built by John, Lord Cobham, who obtained a licenſe for its erection in the twenty-fourth year of Richard II. The ſtrength of this caſtle, by tradition, was ſuch, as to have given ſome umbrage to the court, to obviate which, the following lines, engraved on a braſs plate, with the arms appendant, were affixed

fixed to the eaſtern tower of the grand entrance.

" Knoweth that beth and ſhall be
" That I am made in help of the contre;
" In knowing of whiche thing
" This is chartre, and witneſſing."

THE letters, in a character ſimilar to the above, are ſtill perfectly legible; their ſituation is marked in the annexed view.

I DO not remember to have any where ſeen a more noble or perfect entrance to an ancient caſtle than Cowling here exhibits: the round towers with which it is flanked, and their machicolations, are almoſt unimpaired; the other parts, though much decayed, are yet rendered by the ivy, with which they are overgrown, and the variegated ſhrubberies that appear in tufts around them, beautifully pictureſque in their ruinated ſtate, but rather too complicated to afford

afford a ſubject for landſcape on ſo contracted a ſcale as the preſent undertaking. Great part of the moat which ſurrounded this venerable building originally was ſupplied from the Thames, but is now nearly choaked up.

THIS caſtle was once the chief reſidence of the intrepid Sir John Oldcaſtle, whoſe courage was equalled but by his piety and goodneſs of heart; qualities that were fully evinced by his warm eſpouſal of the doctrine of Wickliff, againſt the bigotry and tyranny of the church of Rome.

SIR THOMAS WYAT, in the year 1553, in his inſurrection againſt Queen Mary, made an unſucceſsful attempt on this caſtle, which he intended as a place of refuge againſt the forces in purſuit of him. Kilburn ſays, "the gate was broke open "with his ordinance;" but the undaunted reſolution of Lord Cobham, in its defence, obliged him to raiſe the ſiege.

A VERY

A VERY comfortable farm houſe is now ſtanding within theſe deſolated walls, where induſtry and uſeful labour are promoted, and more beneficial effects derived to the ſtate, than ever aroſe from the ſplendor and warlike pride of any feudal barony.

RETURNING towards the Medway, the viliage of Gillingham, about three miles below Chatham, claims, from its elevated ſituation, particular attention. On the ſcore of antiquity it likewiſe merits notice. Here ſix hundred Norman gentlemen, who came over in the retinue of the Princes Alfred and Edward, ſons of King Ethelred, are reported to have been murdered by Earl Goodwin.

THESE young Princes were invited, after the death of King Canutus, by the Engliſh nobility to join with them, in order to obtain their father's throne, againſt the aſpiring

and

and inſidious deſigns of the formidable Earl of Kent.

THE manor formerly belonged to the Archbiſhops of Canterbury, who had here a ſtately palace; part of it is ſtill remaining, and ſerves as an excellent barn.

AT the weſt end of the church, over the porch, once ſtood, or ſat, the idolized image of the miraculous lady of Gillingham. The niche ſtill remains; but the good lady, with her train of idolaters, and her trade of miracles, thank heaven, no longer flouriſh on this coaſt!

WITHIN the church are ſeveral ancient monuments of warriors and ſtateſmen of the Beaufitz family; the records of whoſe military proweſs and politics are now, from time and neglect, ſcarcely underſtood.

FROM the church yard the view is beautiful and extenſive, compriſing a rich and fertile country, with the winding Medway beneath, and in the diſtance a noble expanſive view of the ocean, bearing its ſtately burthens

" This way ſailing,
" With all their brav'ry on, and tackle trim;
" Sails fill'd, and ſtreamers waving,
" Courted by all the winds that hold them play."

DESCENDING from the village, we paſs the remains of Gillingham fort, a place never capable of much defence, but now totally in ruin. And here I cannot refrain from dwelling with pride and pleaſure upon the glorious ſcene before me, which renders ſuch defence nearly uſeleſs. The ſcene to which I allude comprizes about forty men of war now lying in ordinary in this river, a ſight that muſt animate the breaſt of every Engliſhman, to retain that dominion

Upnor Castle

nion which their fathers left them in poſſeſſion of, and to convince them, while they hold it, of the abſurdity of fortifying by land, when theſe wooden walls, as they are emphatically termed, can be ſo readily called forth on any ſudden attack of the enemy.

" Jupiter é ligno dat mænia facta Minervæ,
" Quæ tibi ſola tuis'que ferant invicta ſalutem."

FROM hence Upnor caſtle, conſidered as a pleaſing object of the pictureſque kind, on the banks of the river, claims our warmeſt commendation; but, as a place of national defence, I fear has never anſwered any purpoſe whatever; yet it muſt be allowed to have its merits as a place of ſnug ſecurity for a governor, ſtorekeeper, clerk of the cheque, &c. &c. The governor has the command of all the forts on the river except Sheerneſs.

THIS caſtle was erected by queen Elizabeth, in the third year of her reign. It is

built principally of ſtone, and is in the form of a parallelogram: the longeſt ſide is towards the river, which, by the remains of ſome ſtone walls, ſeems to have formed a ſalient angle, like a modern ravelin, which is now covered by high palliſadoes, and a crane for ſhipping powder, of which, within this caſtle, there is a conſiderable magazine for the uſe of the navy.

SUCH was the ſhamefully neglected ſtate of this caſtle that there were only four guns fit for uſe, mounted within it, at the time the Dutch made their bold attempt up this river in the reign of Charles II. At preſent it has no platform, nor yet one gun mounted, which, for the author of this work, was probably a fortunate circumſtance, as he had fixed his ſtation very near it while making the annexed ſketch of the caſtle.

OTHER miſchiefs, however, ſeemed to await him, for, while he was peaceably ſituat-

ed

ed beneath the ſtern of a man of war, to keep under the wind, he was viſited by a perſon from on board, who claimed the privilege of taking him before the Commiſſioner in Chatham yard, to anſwer for his raſh attempt on this noble place of defence.

HAVING ſatisfied Commiſſioner Proby that he had no inſidious deſign againſt the navy, or the welfare of his country, he was ſuffered to depart in peace; and that he might not again be taken into cuſtody for ſimilar offences, the Commiſſioner politely furniſhed him with a paſſport, of which the following is a copy:

To the officers of his Majeſty's ſhips in ordinary.

" SAMUEL IRELAND, Eſq. of Norfolk
" Street, London, may be allowed to
" amuſe himſelf by taking views.

Auguſt 25th, 1791. C. PROBY."

A LITTLE below Upnor caſtle, beneath Cockham wood, is affixed a ſtone denoting the boundary of the city's juriſdiction upon the river. Its ancient date is 1204, and on it is inſcribed, "God preſerve the city of London." The preſent ſtone was erected in 1771, in the mayoralty of Braſs Croſby, Eſq.

FROM hence, on a retroſpective view down the Medway, the eaſy bend of the river, with the luxuriant ſcenery of its woody banks, and receding diſtant hills, make a beautiful combination of objects in pictureſque landſcape.

Chatham.

SECTION IV.

WE now approach Chatham, whoſe royal dock yard, fortifications, and repoſitory for naval ſtores and ordnance, at once fill the mind with the moſt pleaſing ſenſations of the happy ſecurity, and prudent defence of our country.

IF early in the 17th century Camden could ſay of this place that the Medway here "affords a dock to the beſt appointed fleet "that ever the ſun ſaw, ready for action "upon all occaſions," what would he have ſaid of the preſent increaſe of buildings, and ſuperior mode of conducting our invincible navy, at once a proof of our excellent policy and national ſkill.

THE ſtore houſe and wharf, uſually called the

the Old Dock, which is ſituated on a ſlip of land below the chalk cliff, between the church and the river, was the original dock-yard till King James, in 1622, finding it too ſmall for the growing ſervice of the navy removed it to the preſent ſpot.

CHARLES I. greatly improved his father's plan, enlarged the ſite of the yard, and made new docks for floating ſhips in with the tide. Charles II. likewiſe often talked of making farther improvements, and viſited this place with that intention; but having viewed the Royal Sovereign, and paſſed a few joyous hours in the neighbourhood, thought no more of the navy or dock, till Admiral De Ruyter, about ſeven years after, reminded him of his neglected duty, and their defenceleſs ſtate. He diſpatched his Vice-admiral, Van Ghent, with ſeventeen ſail of his lighteſt ſhips, and eight fire ſhips up the Medway; and, a ſtrong eaſterly wind and ſpring tide having carried them

them with reſiſtleſs force, the chain laid acroſs the river was preſently broken, and the large Dutch prizes we had taken in that war were burnt, together with one of our own firſt rates, the Royal Oak. This calamity was likewiſe attended with the deſtruction of the Royal London, the Great James, and the capture of the hull of the Royal Charles. After which Van Ghent returned triumphant, and rejoined Admiral De Ruyter in the Nore, with only the loſs of two ſhips, which ran on ſhore, and were burnt, by his own people.

The preſent naval dock ranges along the eaſtern bank of the river for near a mile in length; the improvements and additional buildings it has received within a few years are aſtoniſhing. The ſail loft, in which the ſails are made, is 209 feet in length, and the largeſt ſtore houſe 660. The ſpacious apartments and work rooms convey a grand idea of their contents; and the regular mode in

which every branch of buſineſs is here conducted, for the public ſervice, muſt be highly gratifing to every well-wiſher of his country. In ſuch preciſe order is each article here arranged as, on any emergency, to be drawn forth with ſo little confuſion, that a firſt rate man of war has often been equipped for ſea in a few weeks. I am informed that in time of war the perſons employed in and about this yard exceed three thouſand.

THE royal wharf, in which the guns belonging to the ſhipping in the river are depoſited, the huge pyramids of cannon balls, and vaſt range of ſtorehouſes, in which are depoſited every ſpecies of hoſtile weapons, one would ſuppoſe need only to be ſhewn to the enemy, to intimidate them from an attack.

THE noble fund eſtabliſhed under the appellation of The Cheſt at Chatham, was inſtituted in 1588, under the direction of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins: when every

every man voluntarily aſſigned a portion of his pay to the ſuccour of his wounded fellow. The inſtitution was ſanctioned by Queen Elizabeth and has continued ever ſince.

The name of this place is thought to be derived from the Saxon words cyte, a cottage, and ham, a village; i. e. the village of cottages.

In the time of Edward the Confeſſor, it was in the poſſeſſion of Goodwin, Earl of Kent, from whom it deſcended to his elder ſon Harold, afterwards King of England; and upon his defeat at the battle of Haſtings to William the Conqueror, who gave it to his half brother Odo, Biſhop of Baieux, created Earl of Kent. On his diſgrace, it came to the family of De Crevequer, and was the Caput Baroniæ, or principal manor of their barony: and, according to Philipot,

they were frequently ſtyled Domini De Cetham. In our time it has given the title of Earl to a late able and deſervedly popular Miniſter.

THIS place has ever been conſidered as a Roman ſtation; and in its vicinity many veſtiges have, within a few years, been diſcovered to prove the aſſertion; ſuch as graves, broken urns, lachrymatories, beads, Roman coins, &c.

ON breaking up the ground about ten years ſince near Upberry farm, which is on a line with Chatham church, a ſtrong foundation of a building was diſcovered very near the ſurface of the earth, which contained ſeveral apartments floored with ſand. The inner ſide of the walls were painted in freſco, with red, blue, and green ſpots.

THE Roman road has evidently paſſed from

from Chatham hill, in a ſtraight direction towards St. Margaret's church, Rocheſter. The tumuli and other ſepulchral remains prove this vicinity to have been a common burial place in the time of the Romans.

At Horſted, near the town, Horſa, brother to Hengiſt, is reported to have been ſlain by Cartigern, and buried on this ſpot, but no traces of a monument are to be found of that celebrated Saxon warrior.

The village of Brompton is happily ſituated for the purpoſes to which it is applied; its wholeſome air, and eaſy aſcent from Chatham, rendering every accommodation for the uſe of the mariners and ſoldiery that occupy the barracks ſo judiciouſly erected there. The view from hence is rich and extenſive; it comprizes the river Thames in the diſtance, a fertile and varied combination

combination of objects compoſed of hills and dales, oatlands and hop-grounds, together with the meandring of the Medway beneath. Deſcending from this eminence, by a ſudden bend of the river, we paſs the chalky cliffs of Frindſbury, which, with the village church on its ſummit, form no unpleaſing landſcape. In digging within this cliff there has been recently diſcovered at a diſtance of fifteen or ſixteen feet from the ſurface, a leaden coffin in the ancient circular form, with a croſs on one ſide, and a number of figures indented thereon in the form of large cockle ſhells. The coffin was broken to pieces in digging it out; but within it was found a ſmall veſſel about ſeven inches high, evidently formed of Roman earth, and containing about a pint; it is now in my poſſeſſion. How this coffin came thus encloſed in the centre of a maſs of chalk cliff, and at ſuch a great diſtance from

from the ſurface, is matter of aſtoniſhment, and more than I can any way explain.

THE village of Frindſbury is ſituated on an eminence which commands an extenſive and noble proſpect of the Medway, Rocheſter bridge, caſtle, and town, with the hills of Kent, giving a rich and beautiful diſtance.

FRINDSBURY is of great antiquity. Its manor, and appendages, with other poſſeſſions, were ſurrendered into the King's hands at the diſſolution of the priory of Rocheſter, in the thirty-ſecond year of Henry VIII. who next year ſettled it on the new founded Dean and Chapter of Rocheſter, with whom this inheritance now continues.

A SINGULAR cuſtom uſed to be annually obſerved on May-day by the boys of Frindſbury,

bury, and the neighbouring town of Stroud; they met on Rocheſter bridge, where a ſkirmiſh enſued between them. This combat probably derived its origin from a drubbing received by the Monks of Rocheſter, in the reign of Edward I. Theſe Monks, on occaſion of a long drought, ſet out on a proceſſion to Frindſbury to pray for rain; but the day proving windy they apprehended their lights would be blown out, their banners toſſed about, and their order much diſcompoſed; they therefore requeſted of the maſter of Stroud hoſpital leave to paſs through the orchard of his houſe, which he granted without the permiſſion of his brethren, who, when they heard what the maſter had done, inſtantly hired a company of ribalds, armed with clubs and bats, who waylaid the poor Monks in the orchard, and gave them a ſevere beating. The Monks deſiſted from proceeding that way, but ſoon after

after found out a pious mode of revenge, by obliging the men of Frindſbury, with due humility, to come yearly on Whit-Monday, with their clubs, in proceſſion, to Rocheſter, as a penance for their crimes. Hence probably came the by-word of Frindſbury clubs, and the cuſtom before alluded to.

WITHIN the church is a curious inſcription, which we hope is not to be conſidered either as a proof of the piety of its inhabitants, or of their love to the poor: It runs thus, "A liſt of ſundry pious perſons, who, "loving this place, have left the following "benefactions to the poor." There is not a ſingle name of a benefactor upon the ſtone; but at the bottom is written, to certify this lack of charity,

"Witneſs our hands,

"WILL^M GIBBONS, Vicar."

WITHIN this pariſh, to the ſouth of the London road, is an once famous pond, anciently called St. Thomas's watering place: It was uſed by the pilgrims, who, travelling to Canterbury to make their offering at Becket's Shrine, poſſibly might honour this place of refreſhment with the Saint's name.

ANOTHER place, bearing the ſame appellation is ſtill to be found at the end of Kent ſtreet road, near London. It is at preſent uſed for watering horſes, but not pilgrims. It is probably to this ſpot that Chaucer alludes in his prologue to one of his Canterbury Tales.

" A morrow when the day gan to ſpring
" Up roſe our hoſt, and was our alder cocke,
" And gadird us togedirs on a flocke;
" And forth we ridden, a little more than paas,
" Unto the watering of Saint Thomas;
" And then our hoſt began his horſe arreſt."

IN

In the town of Stroud little occurs worth recording. It formerly bore the appellation of Stroud Temple, from the manor having been granted by Henry II. to the Knights Templars, whoſe manſion ſtood in the ſouthern part of this pariſh, near the banks of the Medway, and of which I ſhall ſpeak farther in the next ſection.

Stroud is principally ſupported by the oyſter fiſhery, which is conducted by a company called Free Dredgers. Seven years apprenticeſhip entitles to the freedom of this company; and all perſons catching oyſters, who are not members, are ſubject to a penalty, and are termed cable hangers. The company frequently buy brood or ſpat from other parts, which they lay in this river, where they ſoon arrive at maturity. Holland, Weſtphalia, and other countries are from hence ſupplied with great quantities of oyſters.

Rochester from Frindsbury hill

SECTION V.

WE now approach the venerable city of Rocheſter, which, in point of antiquity, is inferior to few in the kingdom, having been founded as early as the year 43, when Plautus came into Britain. Juſtus, one of the miſſionaries who came over with Auguſtine to convert the Saxons, was his firſt biſhop. On the declenſion of the Roman empire it obtained the name of Ruibis, to which the Saxons added Cheſter, which ſignifies a city or caſtle, ſince which it appears from a foundation charter of the cathedral, that, in modern latinity, it has received the appellation of Roffa. It was formerly conſidered rather as a caſtle than a city, and is emphatically called by the venerable Bede the Kentiſhmen's caſtle

THE ancient gothic bridge of Rocheſter is the firſt object that preſents itſelf in that line of critical obſervation which we have propoſed in this work. It is built of ſtone, and conſiſts of eleven pointed arches, ſupported by ſubſtantial piers, which are, on each ſide, well ſecured by angular ſterlings. In length it is 566 feet, but in breadth only 14, a ſpace ſo confined and narrow as to render the paſſage, more than incommodious, from the great traffic carrying on here. In the conſtruction of this bridge, unqueſtionably our anceſtors acted wiſely in making ſtrength their firſt object, as the body of water that falls through the arches flows with a torrent and rapidity equal to any thing that I remember to have noticed.

FROM the beſt authority, this bridge appears to have been compleated about the fifteenth year of Richard II. and principally by the aid of Sir Robert Knollis, who, from an

an obſcure origin, had, by his military exploits in the reign of Edward III. raiſed himſelf to ſuch eminence and diſtinction, as enabled him to return laden with the ſpoils of France. This gallant Knight having, at the gates of Paris, diſplayed the banner of his victorious ſovereign, upon his return home, with the concurrence of Sir John De Cobham De Kent, petitioned that certain lands which had formerly been contributory to the repair of this ſtructure, might be appropriated to theſe uſes, and that two wardens ſhould be appointed to ſuperintend the application and receive the profits, and that they might be permitted to purchaſe further to the yearly value of five hundred marks.

In this petition was ſet down very accurately in feet, inches, and quarters of inches, the proportion of the repairs belonging to each diviſion, according to the ancient regulation of the lands contributory;

butory; for which proportion they are ſtill liable to be called upon, if the rents of the fee-ſimple eſtates belonging to the body corporate of the bridge ſhould prove inſufficient. It underwent conſiderable repairs in the ſucceeding reigns; but in that of Henry VII. received the moſt eſſential, for, in his fifth year, during the primary of John Morton, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, this delight of heaven did not heſitate to publiſh a remiſſion of ſins for forty days to all ſuch perſons who would contribute any thing towards the repair of this very uſeful, if not pious work. It would have been creditable to the Roman Catholic faith if the pecuniary advantages ariſing from abſolution had never been worſe applied! To theſe repentant ſinners it is that the bridge owes part of its coping and iron railing. It was completed by the bounty of one John Warner, a Monk of Rocheſter, in the ſucceeding reign.

THE former bridge was of wood, the firſt mention of which is in the reign of Henry III. though it is highly probable that ſome ſtructure of this kind exiſted at a much earlier period; for Ernulfus, Biſhop of Rocheſter, in that reign, who collected the records contained in the Textus Roffenſis, inſerts there ſeveral ancient regulations for the repairs of Rocheſter bridge; which old bridge was ſituated lower down on the river, and on a line with the principal ſtreets of Stroud and Rocheſter.

IT is now ſuppoſed to be ſeven hundred years ſince the building of Rocheſter caſtle, which Lambard conjectures was the work of William the Conqueror. Other writers ſay it was only repaired by him after the damage it had ſuſtained by the Danes, and that he garriſoned it with five hundred ſoldiers. It is certainly well ſituated to guard the important paſs over the

Medway; and from the defence it has frequently made during the conflicts between the Barons and the Kings of England, may juſtly be conſidered as having been a place of conſiderable ſtrength. The caſtle is nearly quadrangular, including a ſpace of about three hundred feet. Its walls appear to have been ſeven feet thick, and twenty feet higher than the preſent level of the ground.

THIS caſtle was, in the time of William the Conqueror, in the cuſtody of his baſtard brother Odo, Biſhop of Baieux, a turbulent prelate, who, after the death of his ſovereign, raiſed an inſurrection in the county of Kent; where he deſtroyed and pillaged many places; and removed his plunder from thence to Pevenſey caſtle, in Suſſex; where, from famine, he was obliged to ſurrender himſelf, after a ſix weeks ſiege, to William Rufus. Among other conditions he bound himſelf to deliver up Rocheſter caſtle to the King;

King; but, uſing his accuſtomed fraud and diſſimulation, in many articles of this treaty, the King found it neceſſary to inveſt the caſtle of Rocheſter, which, by a vigorous attack, he ſoon compelled to ſurrender; and the treacherous Biſhop was committed priſoner to Tunbridge caſtle. In this ſiege the caſtle of Rocheſter received conſiderable damage, and the means by which this damage was ſoon afterwards repaired were afforded by a ſingular circumſtance, which is thus recorded in ſtory. The King, irritated by the conduct of Gundulph, the Biſhop, whom he had good reaſon to ſuppoſe falſe to his intereſt at the late diſpute, refuſed to ratify a grant of the manor of Hedenham, in the county of Bucks, to the church of Rocheſter, unleſs he had one hundred pounds for ſo doing; this being oppoſed both by Gundulph and the Metropolitan, Henry, Earl of Warwick, and Robert Fitzhaman interfered, and propoſed, as

 mediators,

mediators, that, inſtead of paying that ſum, the Biſhop ſhould build for the King a " tower of ſtone" at his own expence, within the caſtle of Rocheſter. This was at firſt ſtrenuouſly reſiſted, leſt the repair and maintenance of this building ſhould likewiſe fall on them. At length, being freed from this apprehenſion, Gundulph agreed to expend ſixty pounds in erecting the ſquare tower, now known by the name of Gundulph's Tower. From the ſmallneſs of the ſum, and the ſhort time the prelate lived, there is great reaſon to believe that the building was not completed by him.

THIS quadrangular tower ſtands at the ſouth-eaſt corner of the caſtle, and conſtitutes the principal part now remaining: with its embattlements it is one hundred and twelve feet in height, having at each angle another ſmall tower twelve feet ſquare. In the third floor of this building, in which

were

were the apartments of ſtate, we find a ſuperior diſplay of ſkill in the architect. The four grand arches which ſeparate the rooms, ſtill retain ſome curious fragments of gothic ornaments; and throughout the whole building there is evidently an appearance of convenience and ſtrength, that cannot fail to excite admiration, and fix the attention of every judicious obſerver.

THIS tower is ſo conſpicuous an object as to be diſcernible at a diſtance of twenty miles; and from its ſummit we command a grand and extenſive proſpect of the river Medway, comprizing views both above and below the bridge, even to its conflux with the Thames.

DIVERS lands in this and other counties are held of this caſtle, the tenures of which are perfect caſtle guard; for every tenant who does not duly diſcharge his proper rent

rent, ſuit, and ſervices, is liable to have it doubled on the return of every tide of the Medway, during the time it remains unpaid, according to the ancient cuſtom of this manor. On St. Andrew's day, old ſtyle, the ceremony of hanging out a banner at the houſe of the receiver of the rents is ſtill preſerved.

THE remains of this venerable pile afford an ample ſubject for the contemplative mind, viewing its preſent ruinated ſtate, and conſidering it as having been, within ſeven hundred years, the pride of ſo many contending powers; and to have witneſſed ſo many generations, under whoſe controul it has been ſupported, all of whom are now ſwept away; and of whoſe greatneſs and achievements tradition affords ſuch ſlender and indefinite record that we are left to ſeek the hero's fame

—— "In the dropping ruins of his amphitheatre."

THE venerable gothic cathedral of Rocheſter was rebuilt in 1077, by the ſame Gundulph, who was the thirtieth Biſhop of this ſee. The grand weſtern entrance to this building is truly a curious fragment of gothic ſculpture. It's devices of figures, animals, and flowers, though unconnected as a hiſtory, are yet ſtriking inſtances of the minute application and induſtry of our anceſtors: It has no doubt loſt much of its original magnificence; yet on the pillars are ſtill remaining two carved ſtatues repreſenting the patrons of the architect, Henry I. and his Queen Matilda, who, according to the following epitaph of Matthew Prior, on that Empreſs, was buried in this cathedral.

" Ortu magna, viro major, ſed maxima partu,
" Hic jacet Henrici filia, ſponſa, parens."

THERE appears on the entrance to the choir a heavineſs in the pillars, and too great a prevalence

valence of the Saxon ſtyle of architecture: The different periods in which this building was erected are eaſily traced by the diſtinctions of the Saxon and Gothic ſtyle, in which the beautiful ſymmetry of the latter is highly conſpicuous. The arch of the chapter houſe is richly ornamented with devices, and is a beautiful ſpecimen of antiquity; it has not ſuffered ſo much by time as many other ſimilar works of more modern date.

THE ornamental parts of this cathedral are well preſerved in a ſeries of engravings recently made; and the judicious repairs and improvements now carrying on in this church, for the purpoſe of removing the thick coats of plaſter, which covered the pillars, &c. will happily reſtore them to their native beauty. They are formed of Petworth marble.

MUCH praiſe is due to the Dean and Chapter

ter of this cathedral, who have, with ſuch laudable reſpect and taſte, evinced their zeal for the preſervation of the gothic beauties of this venerable ſtructure.

The good ſenſe of the preſent day is likewiſe ſhewn in the new regulations which have taken place in the collegiate body: they have enabled the Chapter to make a valuable addition to their library, by calling upon every member, dean, and prebendary, at the time of his admiſſion, to apply a ſum of money in the purchaſe of books, inſtead of waſting it in a coſtly entertainment.

In this library is the well-known and curious manuſcript, called the Textus Roffenſis, a work chiefly compiled in the twelfth century. This valuable work was loſt for a conſiderable time, during the troubles in the laſt century, and was very near being

irrecoverably ſo in the preſent, having been borrowed by Doctor Harris, for the uſe of his intended hiſtory of this county. It was forwarded to London in a veſſel which was overſet in its paſſage, and the book lay for ſeveral hours under water, by which accident it received conſiderable damage.

The ſee of Rocheſter has had ninety Prelates, of whom the remains of twenty-three are depoſited in this cathedral. Four of their monuments ſtill exiſt; one of them is that of Gundulph, who was interred here in 1107. His tomb adjoins the communion-table.

At a ſmall diſtance, ſouth of the caſtle, is Bully, or Boley, hill, an eminence, in all probability raiſed by the Danes about the ninth century, when they laid ſiege to this city. There are ſeveral handſome houſes built on this ſpot, particularly that of Mrs. Gordon,

Gordon, on the ſummit of the hill, which commands a delightful view of the Medway, Rocheſter bridge, Chatham dock, &c.

A LITTLE to the weſt of this hill, nearer to the river, is the reſidence of Joſeph Brooke, Eſq. recorder of this city, a houſe erected on the ſite of an ancient ſeat formerly belonging to Mr. Watts, who repreſented this city in parliament in the fifth year of Elizabeth, and had the honour of entertaining her Majeſty on her return from an excurſion round the counties of Suſſex and Kent, in 1573. At her departure, her hoſt making an apology for his houſe, as being too ſmall and humble for the reception of a royal gueſt, the Queen, looking round, expreſſed her full approbation of the place and manner in which ſhe had been received, by the Latin word SATIS, ſince which time the houſe has borne that appellation.

It is to this worthy repreſentative that the city owes many of its benefactions, particularly one, which is no leſs ſingular than conſpicuous. In the principal ſtreet of the town, a ſtone inſcription proclaims in broad characters, " that any ſix poor travellers, not " rogues or proctors, may here receive gratis, " for one night, lodging, entertainment, and " four-pence each."

How proctors and rogues became coupled in this good man's interdiction, we are not ſatisfactorily informed; but it has been whiſpered that Mr. Watts being in a bad ſtate of health, and having employed one of that civil profeſſion to make his will, he therein placed himſelf in too advantageous a point of view, and being of opinion that " charity begins at home," perverted his employer's benevolent intention, and gave to himſelf that which was dedicated to God and to pious uſes.

UPON the detection of this fraud, the teſtator appears to have been earneſt to tranſmit to poſterity, in the ſtyle and deſcription of his charity, the character and profeſſion of the miſcreant, who had in this manner attempted to abuſe his truſt.

THE ſum bequeathed for the annual ſupport of this charity in 1579, amounted to thirty-ſix pounds, which eſtate now produces a nett yearly income of five hundred.

SECTION

Temple Farm Strood.

SECTION VI.

FROM Temple Farm, on the weſtern bank of the Medway, the majeſtic ruins of Rocheſter caſtle, its venerable bridge, and cathedral, appear combined in a very advantageous point of view. The white and mouldering cliff on which the caſtle ſtands is beautifully broken by the verdant clumps of trees that here and there diverſify the chalky margin of a ſtream which, here loſing its impetuoſity, may be truly denominated a 'Gentle river.'

THE houſe, which appears in the annexed view, bears the appellation of Temple

Farm, and is within the pariſh of Stroud. The manor on which this farm-houſe ſtands derives its name of Temple Manor from having been poſſeſſed by the monks and brethren of the militia of the temple of Solomon, called the Knights Templars, who had a noble manſion on this ſpot in the reign of Henry II. This gift was confirmed to them by King John, and likewiſe by Henry III. but in the reign of Edward II. theſe unfortunate Knights Templars, under the pretence of their leading a vicious courſe of life, were ſeized and impriſoned, and their land and goods confiſcated; but as it is well known that they had amaſſed much wealth and furniture not uſually to be met with in the coffers of the diſſipated and profligate, there is too much reaſon to ſuppoſe, that if it was for any ſin, it muſt have been for that of avarice that they were thus viſited by the hand of rapine. Be this

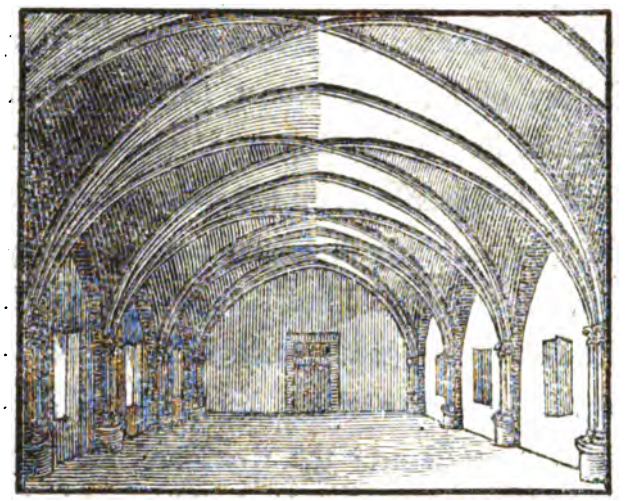
as

as it may, in the ſixth year of that reign, anno 1312, the order was diſſolved. Pope Clement V. granted the whole of their lands and goods to another religious order, called the Knights Hoſpitallers. Thoſe lands, although confirmed to them by the King, were yet, at leaſt the greater portion of them, dealt out to his friends and favourites amongſt the laity. This abuſe induced the ſucceeding Pope John to thunder out his bulls, curſes, and excommunications, in no gentle degree againſt Earls, Barons, Knights, and ſuch other Laymen as became poſſeſſed of them; and in the next year the Sovereign relenting, they were devoted to their former pious uſes, and became again the ſole property of the Knights Hoſpitallers of Jeruſalem. From theſe Knights the King (Edward the Second) by ſome means or other obtained a grant of the fee-ſimple of their lands, in the eighteenth year of his reign; and in conſequence directed the Sheriff of

Kent to take the ſame into his hands, and account for them in the Exchequer.

EDWARD III. gave this manor to Mary, Counteſs of Pembroke, who beſtowed it on the Abbeſs and Siſters Minories of St. Clare, of Deni Abbey, in Cambridgeſhire, in whoſe poſſeſſion it remained till the diſſolution; ſince which, having paſſed through many hands, it is now the property of Mr. Whitaker. Only a ſmall part of the manſion remains, which is converted into a farm houſe, where one large room, up ſtairs, which overlooks the river, appears to be of the time of Elizabeth, and has ſince that period undergone little alteration. Beneath this building is a ſpacious vault of ſtone and chalk, in which the Knights Templars occaſionally aſſembled; and, though of very ancient date, is yet in a perfect ſtate of preſervation. Its walls are of a great thickneſs, and the groined arches, as expreſſed in the annexed outline,

line, have ſuffered little from the depreda-tions of time.



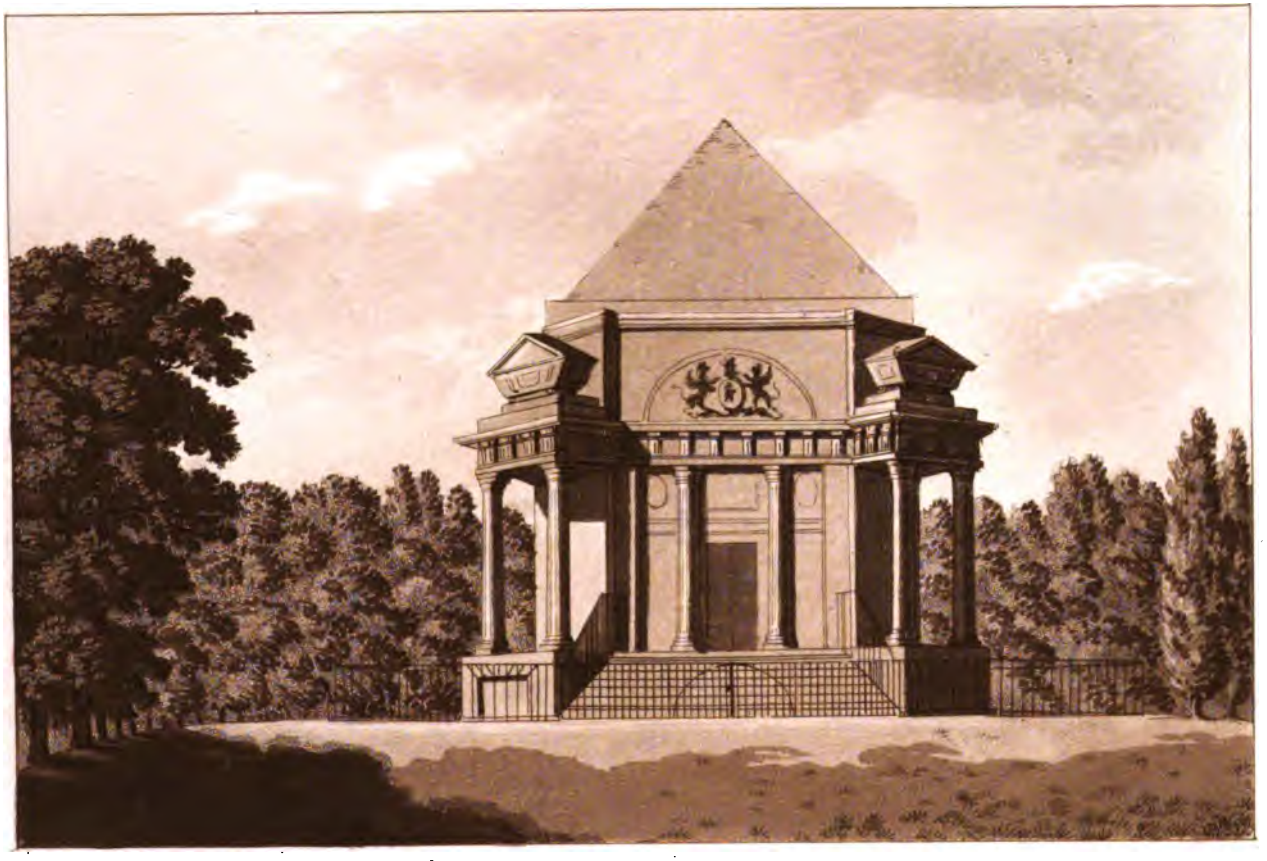
On the oppoſite bank of the Medway the church of St. Margaret, which is in the pariſh of Rocheſter, its ivy-mantled tower, and pictureſque ſituation, equally claim the notice of the antiquary and the admirer of beautiful landſcape.

One of our Saxon Kings is reported to have been buried in this church; and

againſt the eaſt wall, in the ſouth chancel, is a curious ancient buſt of a man in robes, with a coronet on his head. In the reign of Charles II. according to Harris's Hiſtory of Kent, a coronet, ſet round with precious ſtones, was dug up in this churchyard. At Cockſtone, on the weſtern bank of the river, recently ſtood an ancient family ſeat, belonging to Lord Romney, of which little except the garden walls is now remaining. No wonder it has been deſerted; its ſituation is ſo near the river, and the very limited ſpace between the building and the riſing ground behind it, ſeems to have pointed it out as not having originally been a very eligible ſpot for the purpoſes of a comfortable dwelling: on its ſite is erected a conſiderable lime-kiln.

NORTH of Cockſtone we approach the noble park of Cobham, amidſt whoſe ſhady and venerable oaks appears, from the bank

of



L.d Darnley's Mausoleum in Cobham Park.

of the river, the newly-erected mauſoleum of Lord Darnley. This expenſive ſtone edifice is from a deſign of the ingenious Mr. Wyatt, and is in the Doric order; its parts and ornaments are judiciouſly placed, and cannot fail to attract the attention as well as command the admiration of every obſerver of taſte. But from this applauſe we muſt except the pyramidical finiſh at top, which is both ponderous and unmeaning; and, with all deference to the ſkill of its architect, would have had a more pleaſing, and certainly a more claſſical effect, had it been finiſhed with a circular dome: I am informed that this angular top is to be removed. The upper part of this building is intended as a family chapel; its decorations are ſimple, and well ſuited to the ſolemn purpoſes of prayer: beneath it is the burial vault, in which are receſſes intended to receive the laſt remains of human greatneſs; for which awful ceremony every part is judiciouſly

adapted,

adapted, and its ſequeſtered ſituation renders it a ſcene where (if ſuch a wiſh had ever exiſted, but in the flight of poetry)

" Kings for ſuch a tomb would wiſh to die."

THIS celebrated mauſoleum is reported to have coſt ten thouſand pounds.

THE noble family manſion, within this park, derived its name of Cobham Hall from its former poſſeſſors, the eminent family of Cobham, who, from hiſtorical accounts as early as King John, have in every department filled the higheſt poſts of truſt and honour with ſuperior luſtre to themſelves, and credit to their country. In the firſt year of James I. Henry Lord Cobham, with his brother George, Sir Walter Raleigh and others, having been accuſed of conſpiring to kill the King, were brought to trial at Wincheſter; they were attainted, and judgment of death was paſſed on them;

them; George was beheaded; and though the ſentence was not executed on Lord Cobham, his eſtate was forfeited to the Crown. He ſurvived his diſgrace many years, and died without iſſue, January 1619, in a ſtate of poverty bordering upon wretchedneſs.

THE manor, with Cobham Hall, came thus by attainder to the Crown, from whence it was granted to Lodowick Stuart, Duke of Lenox, kinſman to James I. from whoſe family, by intermarriages, it devolved to its preſent noble poſſeſſor, the Earl of Darnley.

THE center of this ſtately building is the work of Inigo Jones; the ſtaircaſe is ſpacious, and the muſic-gallery is richly adorned with ornaments well conceived for grandeur of effect, and is, on the whole, worthy the taſte of its architect. The wings are of more ancient date, but have been new caſed with brick,

brick, and rendered uniform with the other part of the building.

In a large room the arms of Elizabeth ſtill remain, and near them an inſcription, which relates to her having been entertained in this manſion. Cobham Hall, with the outhouſes, is reported to have coſt ſixty thouſand pounds. The park is large, but not ſo extenſive as formerly; it is famed for its ſtately timber trees, particularly its oaks, ſome of which are upwards of twenty feet in circumference, and by their venerable appearance juſtify the poet's opinion.

"The monarch oak,
"Three centuries he grows, and three he ſtays
"Supreme in ſtate, and in three more decays."

In the grove in this park is a remarkable cheſnut-tree, called the Four Siſters, from its dividing itſelf into four large arms; it is thirty-two feet in circumference. The ve-

niſon

niſon of this park is, from the quality of the herbage on which it is fed, eſteemed to be ſuperior in flavour to that of almoſt any other in the country.

In Cobham church are ſeveral well ſculptured monuments of the Cobham family, ſome of them in a ſuperior ſtyle of execution.

Remains of Halling-house.

SECTION VII.

PASSING the ancient village of Woldham, which lies on the eaſtern bank of the Medway, little variation of ſcenery occurs, till we approach the extenſive ruins of Halling-houſe, formerly one of the four ſplendid reſidences of the Biſhops of Rocheſter. In the reign of Edward II. Hamo de Heth, the then Biſhop, and who was conſecrated at Avignon, in 1319, expended conſiderable ſums in repairs and additions, on this once ſpacious building, by erecting a hall and chapel, the remains of which are only to be traced by fragments of ruinated walls.

THIS ſimple edifice and theſe humble roofs, dedicated only to God and Religion, yet

remain. The loftier domes and marble towers, in which hierarchy, the invention of man, lifted its mitred front, have mouldered away.

A STONE figure, we are told, about two feet high, of Hamo, the Biſhop, in his epiſcopal robes, once ſtood in a receſs over the principal entrance to the houſe. This ſtatue was blown down about the year 1720, but was preſerved by Dr. Thorpe, of Rocheſter, and preſented by him to Dr. Atterbury, then Biſhop of that See. The manor of Halling was given to the See of Rocheſter, by Egbert, King of Kent; the deed is ſaid to have been witneſſed by one Hetbert, who is alſo ſtyled, King of Kent; hence it appears, that this part of the realm gave a royal title to more than one perſonage, an opinion that is fortified by another authority, a gift made by Offa, King of the Mercians, to Erdulph, Biſhop

of

of Rocheſter, in which the ſame Hetbert is mentioned with Sigaered, who is ſtyled "Rex Dimidiæ partis Provinciæ Cantuariorum."

A CIRCUMSTANCE occurs in the hiſtory of Halling-houſe, that confirms the idea of the early introduction and culture of the vine in this kingdom; for, when King Edward II. was at Bokinfold, in this county, in the nineteenth year of his reign, in his way towards France, it appears that the ſame Hamo, our ſumptuous Biſhop, who was alſo confeſſor to the King, ſent him thither a preſent of his drinks, and withal both wine and grapes of his own growth from his vineyard, at Halling. This likewiſe countenances the opinion, that the word Vinæ, mentioned in Doomſday Book (contrary to the ſentiment of ſome writers) meant ſomething more than the mere plantation of apples and pears; and it may reaſonably be ſuppoſed that, from its contiguity to France, the

the attempt to naturalize this ſeducing and delicious ſtranger, would firſt be made in this county; and as far as reſpects the delicacy of its conſtitution, a kindlier aſpect, and a more favourable diſpoſition of the ground, better ſheltered from the eaſt and north, could hardly be imagined for the purpoſe of making the experiment.

HALLING derived its name from its healthy ſituation, and ſignifies, in the Saxon tongue, a wholeſome low place, or meadow, according to the ingenious perambulator, Lambard, who lived a conſiderable time in this houſe, and who emphatically ſays, "At this place of the Biſhop in Halling, I "am drawing on the laſt ſcene of my life, "where God hath given me liberorum qua-"drigam, all the fruite that ever I had."

FROM this extenſive remain of antiquity various windings of the river afford a continual

tinual diverſity of ſcenery, which though not grand, yet, in a peculiar degree, partakes of the ſimple and beautiful; rich meadows, with gently riſing hills and village ſpires, happily interſperſed, forming the general character of the landſcape.

PASSING Snodeland, the lowly ſituation of Burham church, which is nearly on the oppoſite Bank of the Medway, produces a beautiful effect; the high chalk and gravelly bank, which form the margin of the river, give a good foreground to the landſcape; while, in the diſtance, a fine ſcreen of hills running nearly parallel with the river terminates the ſcene.

THE vicinity of Burham is famed for its abundant pits of potters' clay. At New Hythe the river ſcenery conveys to the mind more the idea of a ſtream running through a garden, than that of a navigable river,

river, by which ſo conſiderable an extent of country is ſo highly benefited; the borders are beautifully ſhaded with young oaks and other trees; whilſt its meandering courſe and contracted ſpace add much to the ſimplicity and ſerenity of the ſcene. I ſhall hence take leave to digreſs a little and conduct my reader to the remains of Malling abbey, which, from its contiguity to a rivulet that falls into the Medway, may properly be conſidered as relative to the preſent purſuit.

THE venerable remains of this abbey, in the annexed ſketch, are taken in ſo different a point of view from all others that have come to my knowledge, that I flatter myſelf it will, in its place, be as acceptable as any yet preſented to the public.

THE ſimilarity in the ſtyle of architecture between this front and that of Rocheſter cathedral,

Malling Abbey.

cathedral, evidently points out the time of its erection, and ſtrongly confirms the truth of the hiſtorical account of its foundation. From every circumſtance it is more than probable that Gundulph, Biſhop of Rocheſter, by whom it was founded, was likewiſe its architect: the interſecting arches, zig-zag ornaments, and other decorations ſimilar to thoſe of Rocheſter, give additional force to the opinion.

THE Abbey was founded in 1090, in the fourth year of the reign of William Rufus, as a benedictine nunnery, and dedicated to the honour of the Virgin Mary. Gundulph, the founder, unwilling to truſt a female to preſide over this abbey during his life, continued himſelf its governor, and, when nearly at the point of death, empowered one Alicia to take upon herſelf the character of Abbeſs after his deceaſe; but even to her he refuſed delivering either the paſtoral ſtaff, gloves,

or ring, till ſhe had promiſed canonical obedience to the See of Rocheſter, and had taken an oath not to admit either Abbeſs or Nun into the houſe without the conſent and privity of his ſucceſſor.

THERE is ſomething ſingular in the mode in which the original charter of the lands of this manor was granted in 945, by Edmund, King of Mercia, and the Angles, and Burkie, Biſhop of Rocheſter. This charter, after having been ſigned by the King, the Archbiſhops, and Biſhops, is then ſigned by Ælfgifu, the King's concubine, who there deſcribes herſelf " Ego Ælfgifu concubina Regis affui :" after this follow the names of the Dukes, &c. &c.

THE ſolemn manner in which this lady's name is inſerted as a witneſs with the firſt perſonages in the kingdom, and that to a religious grant, proves that concubinage at that

that time was not held in diſgrace, however inferior to marriage: this cuſtom moſt likely originated from the laws of the Romans, which not ſuffering a man to marry a woman greatly his inferior in birth and condition, yet permitted him to keep her as a concubine; not that this relation ſtands merely upon heathen authority; for, in later times, Popes have allowed concubines: and the Council of Toledo have humanely given a man permiſſion to keep one woman without excommunication, in caſe ſhe ſhould ſerve him as a wife. This relaxation of the auſterity in religious manners, inclines one to think, that, in announcing their indulgencies, theſe holy fathers and ſynods were not unmindful of themſelves, and affords an additional proof of the truth of that adage which tell us,

" A fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind."

At the diſſolution, this abbey was ſurrendered

rendered into the king's hands by Margaret Vernon, its abbeſs, and the convent in 1538, at which time it was valued, according to Dugdale, at two hundred and eighteen pounds four ſhillings and two pence half penny clear income: at that period it came to Cranmer, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, then to Sir Henry Brooke, &c.; and, about the time of the Reſtoration, to the family of the Honeywoods, whoſe deſcendant, Mr. Frazer Honeywood, banker of London, has, within a few years, almoſt rebuilt the abbey-houſe as a family reſidence, in the gothic ſtyle, leaving however many of the ancient buildings and offices ſtanding: part of the houſe appears in the annexed view.

By ſome veſtiges ſtill remaining, we find that the abbey conſiſted of two quadrangles, with cloiſters, and a ſpacious hall. Here are to be found extenſive gardens, a beautiful rivulet of excellent clear water; and in the neighbouring

Leybourne Castle.

neighbouring meadows, rich in ſoil, the remains of their fiſh-ponds, with every circumſtance to render religious retirement palatable:

" For what Jeſuit prieſt e'er took in hand
" To plant a church in barren land."

THE remain of Leyborne Caſtle, in this vicinage, though now merely a farm-houſe, and greatly in decay, is yet an object worthy of the pencil; and, even from its preſent appearance, painfully recalls to the mind its waſted honours and loſt importance. All that exiſts of this caſtle, is the ſtone work of the chief entrance, with a great part of the circular towers on each ſide, and a few fragments of arches and walls: the traces of the ditch which ſurrounded it, are alſo ſtill viſible.

OVER the gate appears to have been a machicolation, or contrivance, from whence ſtones, boiling water, or melted lead, might be poured down on the heads of the beſiegers.

ſiegers. The caſtle ſeems, by the fragments of its walls ſtill remaining, to have been a place of conſiderable extent.

LEYBORNE is called in ancient records Lil, leborne, or Lytlan-borne, probably from the little brook or bourn which runs through this pariſh; Lytlan ſignifies, in old Engliſh, LITTLE.

ON the diſgrace of Odo, Biſhop of Baieux, half-brother to William the Conqueror, Leyborne came into the hands of the Crown; after which, in the reign of Richard I., it was in the poſſeſſion of Sir Roger de Leyborne, who, about that time, erected this caſtellated manſion. His ſon, William de Leyborne, had here the honor of entertaining Edward I. At length, in the time of Edward III. this caſtle, after having paſſed through the hands of ſeveral noble owners, was, with its appurtenances, granted by charter for the endowment

ment of a newly-founded Ciſtercian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the Tower of London; in which tenure it remained till the diſſolution, from whence it has, after many changes, come into the poſſeſſion of its preſent owner, Henry Hawley, Eſq. of the Grange, in this pariſh.

HENCE, returning to the river, we paſs Mill-hall, a pleaſant and retired village, whoſe inhabitants ſeem to derive their principal happineſs, from undiſturbed repoſe and thoſe ſources of induſtry, which are conſtantly ſupplied, upon the banks of this beautiful and navigable current. Near this rural ſcene, on the margin of the river, the eye is gratified with a view of the richeſt produce of this fruitful country, the flowery HOP,

" Which in the malt's
" Fermenting tuns infuſed, to mellow age
" Preſerves the potent draught."

THE beautiful and pictureſque appear-

ance

ance of this ſcenery, at the preſent period, renders it matter of aſtoniſhment that it has received ſo little attention from the pencil of the artiſt. The leaſing of the hop is peculiarly elegant in its form; and the curled tendrils wreathing round its lofty ſupporters, add greatly to the beauty of this luxuriant plant; the growth of which is not unhappily deſcribed by Phillips in his popular poem on Cyder;

" Lo! on auxiliary poles, the hops
" Aſcending ſpiral, rang'd in meet array!
" Tranſporting proſpect! Theſe, as modern uſe
" Ordains, infus'd, an auburn drink compoſe,
" Wholeſome, of deathleſs fame."

THIS epithet of WHOLESOME, applied by our poet to a plant which has ſo long and ſo univerſally been infuſed in that which is the natural, and was once the favourite beverage of our countrymen, does not of itſelf ſeem to carry enough of compliment, unleſs we ſuppoſe it introduced by him for the purpoſe of adding the weight of his authority in oppoſition

Hop Gathering.

poſition to an opinion, which, in one period of our hiſtory, ſeems to have obtained conſiderable footing—that it was of a pernicious or poiſonous quality; and that this was ſo, we find among other authorities, that, in 1428, the Parliament petitioneda gainſt hops, as a wicked weed: it was introduced into England, in 1524, from the Netherlands; and two years preceding, encouragement by act of Parliament was given to the cultivation of it, by exempting lands employed for theſe purpoſes from penalties. The produce to the revenue, in modern times, from the increaſed trade in this article amounted, in the year 1791, to ninety thouſand and fifty-nine pounds one ſhilling and ten pence.

The ſketch annexed, though not avowedly a portrait of the place, will give ſome idea of the happy ſcenery which preſents itſelf at the hour of noon. The cheerful countenance of the hop-gatherer, juſt quitting

his labour, the younger dancing round the loaded poles; and the more aged ſpreading his humble repaſt on the ſcattered leaves, while each in his turn

" Crowns high the goblet, and with cheerful draught
" Enjoys the preſent hour, adjourns the future thought."

THE tythe on this plant, which has ſo long been matter of diſcontent among the planters, it is reported, is like to be adjuſted by a compoſition of twelve ſhillings an acre, inſtead of being paid in kind, which compoſition will probably yield more than the ſum ariſing from the preſent mode of collecting.

SECTION

Aylesford

SECTION VIII.

ON our approach to Aylesford, at an eaſy bend of the river, the eye is ſuddenly attracted with the beautiful ſeat of the Counteſs of Aylesford, called The Friars.

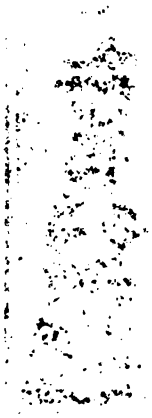
THE ſituation of this venerable manſion, which is cloſe to the banks of the Medway, comprizes, in one point of view, the moſt perfect landſcape I have yet met with on this river. In this view is included the ancient church of Aylesford, at a diſtance of about half a mile, part of the village is happily revealed from behind a verdant intervening ſlope, and the gothic bridge beneath is, in part, ſo happily concealed by the hand of nature, as to appear the deſign of art.

THE Priory, or Friars, was founded in the 25th year of Henry III. in 1240, by Radulphus Friſburne, under the patronage of Richard, Lord Grey, of Codnor, for Friars Carmelites, a religious order not before known in this country. This Lord, having been in the wars in Paleſtine, viſited Mount Carmel, and noticing the auſtere mode of living among the hermits there, he determined on eſtabliſhing, at his return, an order on the ſame rigid plan in Aylesford wood.

IN 1245, the monaſteries of this order having conſiderably increaſed, a general chapter was held here, in which one John Stock, who is reputed to have lived in a hollow tree, was choſen ſuperior general of the ſocieties.

AT the diſſolution, the Priory of the White Friars, at Aylesford, was given to Sir Thomas Wyatt,

Lady Aylesford's called the Friars.



Wyatt, and from him devolved to his ſon, who forfeited it to the Crown, by his rebellion againſt Queen Mary. Her ſucceſſor, Elizabeth, gave it to Mr. Sidley, to whoſe brother, Sir William Sidley, this town is indebted for its bridge; which he built in 1607, together with an hoſpital. After various alienations this Priory came, at length, into the family of its preſent noble poſſeſſor, whoſe open hand has, in the feelings of the induſtrious poor, as much exceeded the dole indiſcriminately diſtributed at the gates of the Priory, as her gentle virtues are in the eye of heaven more acceptable than the pious auſterities of its former inhabitants.

Some parts of the Priory ſtill remain, and theſe are moſt conſpicuous in the kitchen and out-offices.

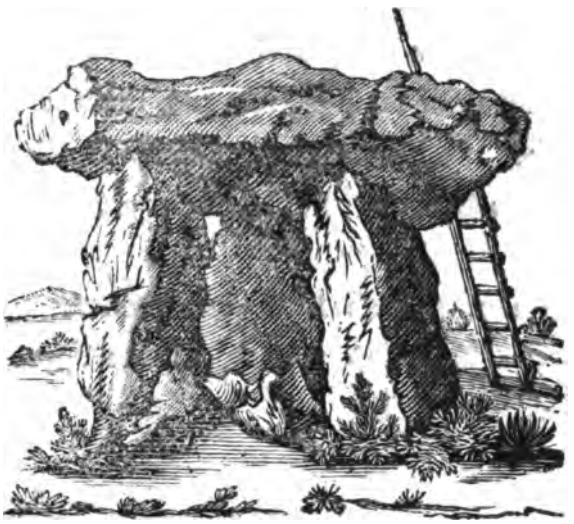
In the church were interred many of the family of Lord Grey, of Codnor, the Colepeppers,

peppers, &c.: the monuments of the latter are well preſerved.

About a mile to the north, eaſtward of Aylesford, on an eminence, ſtands the rude and inexplicable monument of antiquity, called Kit's Coity-House: it is, with other buildings of the ſame claſs, in this country, generally allowed to be a ſepulchral monument; and that this pile was erected as a teſtimony of reſpect to the memory of Catigern, brother to the King of Britain: he was ſlain in ſingle combat with Horſa, the Saxon, in 455, who likewiſe fell in this ſharp conflict: Horſa was buried at a place about four miles diſtant, denominated Horſtead; (probably from the name of the hero,) where a number of large ſtones mark the place of that memorable rencounter.

Kit's Coity-House conſiſts of four large ſtones of the pebble kind; the biggeſt of which is eight feet high, and is conjectured

ed to weigh about eight tons and a half. Neither of them appears to have any mark of the chiſel.



About ſixty or ſeventy yards from theſe ſtones, I am informed, there formerly lay another of nearly the ſame ſize, which may poſſibly have originally encloſed the eaſtern part of the fabric that is now open. This ſtone was buried in the earth a few years ſince, for the convenience of agriculture, by Mr.

Mr. Bentham, the preſent poſſeſſor of this land. My late ingenious friend, Groſe, in his " Antiquities," conjectures that the name of Kit, or Cat, may be an abridgment of Catigern; and that in Cornwall, where there are many of thoſe monuments, the ſtones are called Coits; therefore Kit's Coity-Houſe may expreſs Catigern's houſe, built with Coits.

From Aylesford, the ſcenery on the Medway affords little variety, till we approach Allington Caſtle,

which

which is about two miles diſtant from Maidſtone. This venerable ruin, though within a few yards of the river, is by the range of trees on its bank, nearly excluded from the view. As a pictureſque object upon our ſtream this is a circumſtance much to be regretted; and, indeed, its general ſituation is ſo circumſcribed, as to render it difficult to ſelect a favourable point: I flatter myſelf however the ſketch will be thought to give the moſt comprehenſive idea of this once famous place of defence. This Caſtle is reported to have been built ſoon after the Conqueſt by Earl Warren on the ſite of one formerly erected by the Saxons. In the time of Henry VII. it became the property of Sir Henry Wyatt, his favourite, and Privy Counſellor, who having been long a priſoner in the Tower, during the reign of Richard III., is ſaid to have been wonderfully preſerved, and fed there by a cat; for which reaſon he is reported to have been painted with that animal

in his arms; of this portrait I know nothing. His ſon Thomas was born in this caſtle, of whoſe rare talents every admirer of polite literature in this country, it may be preſumed, is acquainted. He is called by Anthony Wood "The Delight of the Muſes, and of "Mankind;" and Leland, in his poem on his death, entitles him "Incomparabilis." An invidious, but happy ſarcaſm of this great man dropt in the willing ear of the ſucceeding Monarch, Henry VIII., is thought to have been inſtrumental in promoting the Reformation. He obſerved "It was a hard "thing a man could not repent without the "Pope's leave."

AFTER the unfortunate death of this accompliſhed gentleman, the caſtle and manor became forfeited to the Crown; after which, having paſſed through many hands, it was, in the year 1720, diſpoſed of by Sir Jacob Aſtley, its then owner, to Sir Robert Marſham, Baronet,

Baronet, whoſe ſon, Lord Romney, is its preſent poſſeſſor.

THE remains of this ancient caſtle are now uſed as a farm-houſe; they are of conſiderable extent, and many of its external parts are in a tolerable good ſtate of preſervation. The moat, or ditch, that ſurrounded it ſtill exiſts.

Maidstone.

SECTION IX.

ON the approach to Maidſtone the river ſcenery is pleaſingly diverſified, by a long range of ſpreading trees on the bank of the Medway; which, with its venerable ſtone bridge, and the country contiguous, produce rather an intereſting landſcape. I have yet given a preference to the view above the bridge, from whence the annexed drawing was taken, as comprizing a more extenſive ſelection of objects, and conſequently better adapted to characterize the general view of this ancient town.

THE church is ſituated upon an agreeable eminence, on the eaſtern bank of the Medway, and is a good ſpecimen of gothic architecture. Its embattlements, and time-worn

worn tower, leave little room to regret the loſs of the ſteeple, which is reported to have originally ſtood here, and which is ſaid to have been deſtroyed by lightning.

THE church was built anno 1396, in the reign of Richard II., by Archbiſhop William de Courtney, who granted a licence for the purpoſe of making it collegiate: within the church is a monument, and ſome lines on the founder; though it does not appear in Camden, Godwin, &c. that he was interred here. Weever however ſeems to think that he was buried under his monument in the chancel. Be this as it may, the mode of erecting cenotaphs has been continued down, and is of frequent uſe in the preſent day.

NEARLY adjoining to the church are the remains of the palace, formerly the occaſional reſidence of the Archbiſhops of Canterbury. It is now the vicarage houſe, and,

in

in point of ſituation and proſpect, ſuperior to any other part of the town.

THE view commands the river, with its lock and waterfall; and the rich verdure of the adjoining country contributes to render it a complete landſcape. Near the lock, and in the neighbourhood, the ſtream abounds with carp, tench, and gudgeons.

A HANDSOME gothic ſtone gateway, and other fragments of antiquity, are ſtill remaining, being part of St. Mary, and All Saints college, which was likewiſe founded by Archbiſhop Courtney.

THE pariſh church formerly belonged to this college, and, in conſequence, all the tythes, both great and ſmall, were appropriate; and the vicar's income depended on occaſional maſſes, oblations, mortuaries, &c.; which, in all probability, afforded, in the zenith

nith of prieſtcraft, a tolerable good harveſt. The Metropolitans had anciently a caſtellated manſion in the centre of the town, which was began by Archbiſhop Ufford, and finiſhed by Simon Iſlip, his ſucceſſor: no traces of it are now remaining. The ſame Prelate likewiſe erected the bridge in this town, which has ſince, in the reign of James I., undergone a thorough repair: the expence of which was defrayed by an aſſeſſment on the inhabitants. Not far from the bridge a chapel, or refectory, with part of the cloyſters of a religious fraternity, called Corpus Chriſti, are ſtill remaining.

The centrical ſituation of this town renders it highly eligible for the purpoſes of provincial meetings, and public buſineſs. It is an ancient borough by preſcription. Here the courts of juſtice are held, and the Knights of the ſhire are elected. It is ſituated in a delightful vale, happily ſcreened by ſurrounding hills; and is juſtly famed for the dryneſs

dryneſs of its ſoil and its excellent water. The river Len, as it is called, runs through this town, and empties itſelf here into the Medway; of which, in fact, the Len is one of its branches: it riſes at Ewell, adjoining to Bigon Heath, in the weſtern part of the pariſh of Lenham, which doubtleſs derived its name from the river.

In the church of Lenham is an inſcription, which, though foreign to the preſent inquiry, may yet be thought, from the ſingular circumſtance it records, not unworthy a place in this work. The lines are on the tomb of Robert Thompſon, Eſq. who was grand child to Mary Honeywood, wife of Robert Honeywood, of Charing, who had, at her deceaſe, no leſs than three hundred and ſixty-ſeven children lawfully deſcended from her, ſixteen of her own body; one hundred and fourteen grand children; two hundred and twenty eight in the third generation; and nine

in the fourth. We are told that the body of this pious and prolific lady lieth in this church; but that her cenotaph may be ſeen at Mark's Hall, in Eſſex, where ſhe died; and that her renown liveth with her poſterity.

The ſtream before-mentioned from Lenham, with ſeveral others, amply ſupply the town of Maidſtone with water, by means of ſeveral conduits; the principal of which is a lofty ſtone building, in an octagonal form, in the centre of the High Street, and which has, at the top of it, what is called the Fiſh Bell, from its being rung when any fiſh is brought to market, an article with which this place is amply ſupplied. Trout, perch, carp, and lampreys, are the ſpecies for which it is moſt celebrated.

The principal ſtreet in Maidſtone is ſpacious, and, from its eaſy aſcent, is kept continually clean and dry; at the upper part of

of it, a handſome building of ſtone and brick has been erected within a few years, for the purpoſes of a court-hall: the market-croſs, as a remain of antiquity, is worthy notice; it was ſome years ſince removed on rollers, without being taken to pieces, from the upper part of the High Street to the ſituation in which it now ſtands.

A MANUFACTURE of linen-thread is carried on here, which owes its origin to the perſecutions of the Duke D'Alva; when the Walloons, in the reign of Elizabeth, took refuge in this country. The operation of ſpinning flax for the thread ſtill retains the name of Dutch work; but this is now of no very great extent or importance.

THE principal trade here is derived from the navigation of our river; by which channel the various productions of this county,

its timber from the Wealds and other parts, paper from the neighbouring mills, grain and flour, hops and fruit, are, through this place, circulated to the capital as well as foreign markets.

The abundant fertility of the country around in corn fields, hop and filbert grounds, orchards of apple, cherry, and other fruit trees, not only ſo far enrich the ſcenery as to delight the eye of the Engliſh traveller, but have induced ſome foreign writers to denominate it "The Hungaria of Great Britain."

In the country about Maidſtone, now almoſt covered with hops, this plant is ſaid to have been firſt cultivated, and that to a very great extent, about the period of the Reformation; when its flouriſhing ſtate is ſaid to have given birth, though not in ſtrict conformity

conformity to chronological hiſtory, to the following old Engliſh rhymes,

" Hops, reformation, baize, and beer
" Came into England all in a year."

SCENES, ſuch as we have deſcribed hold out invitations not to be reſiſted by the wealthy and the great. The hills and vallies around, covered with villas and manſion houſes, confirm the truth of the repreſentation given.

LORD ROMNEY'S ancient ſeat, called the Mote, about a mile to the eaſt of the town, though not in its external appearance a ſtately manſion, has yet within it many elegant and ſtately apartments: in park ſcenery, the hand of nature, with little aſſiſtance from art, has been evidently laviſh.

THE houſe and grounds of Mr. Whatman, called Vinters, are boldly ſituated on ſuch an eminence, as to command a fine and diſtant proſpect,

proſpect, and are yet ſo happily ſheltered by the contiguous woody ſcenery as to want no protection in the ſevereſt ſeaſon: to this gentleman the country is much indebted for his great improvements in the art of paper-making, which he has unqueſtionably carried to a higher degree of perfection and excellence than was before known in this or any other kingdom, and may truly be ſaid to have given additional ſmoothneſs to verſe, and a new face to the literature of this country.

In the neighbourhood of Vinters is the celebrated Pinnenden Heath, which has been a place of conſiderable note ever ſince the Conqueſt.

In Doomſday book mention is made that "when the inhabitants of Kent were ſummoned to meet AD SCIRAM, that is, in public aſſembly, at the Shyre-gemot, or Sheriff's tourn, for the trial of certain cuſtoms therein mentioned,

" mentioned, they ſhould go for that purpoſe " as far as Pinnedenna, but no farther."

In 1076, the eleventh of William the Conqueror, a famous aſſembly was held at this place, at which were preſent many Earls, Barons, Biſhops, &c. who were aſſembled from every county, as well French as Engliſh : among them was Agelric, Biſhop of Cheſter, eſteemed ſo well verſed in the laws of the realm, that, notwithſtanding his age and infirmities, his preſence was ſo neceſſary as to induce the King to give an order for his being brought hither in a waggon, " in " una quadriga." The cauſe of this meeting was to decide on the conduct of Odo, the avaricious Biſhop of Baieux, and Earl of Kent, the Conqueror's half-brother, who was charged with having defrauded the See of Canterbury of manors, lands, and liberties. The trial laſted three days; and the charge was ſo clearly proved, as to enable the

the Archbiſhop to recover from his falſe brother, and father of the church, ſeveral of his ancient poſſeſſions, and to aſcertain other matters that were in diſpute between the church and king.

On the north ſide of this heath is a county-houſe, where the Sheriff continues to hold his county-court monthly, and where he takes the poll for Knights of the ſhire, till it is adjourned to Maidſtone.

SECTION

Boxley Abbey.

SECTION X.

BOXLEY ABBEY is ſituated a little to the eaſtward of Pinnenden Heath, and was formerly part of the vaſt poſſeſſions of the pious Biſhop of Baieux. The remains of this once famous abbey, as given in the annexed ſketch, is a faithful view of its preſent ſtate. The great range of wall ſtill remaining demonſtrates the wealth and extent of the endowments of this place; and the granary of the monks, which is nearly co-extenſive, affords no leſs equivocal evidence—that, though they might not be quite ſo laborious as the ant, they were at leaſt equally provident. It was founded as early as 1146, by William De Ipre, Earl of Kent, who afterwards became a monk at Laon, in Flan-

ders. This religious houſe was an eſtabliſhment for white monks, of the Ciſtertian order, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

EDWARD I. granted to the Abbot of Boxley many privileges and immunities, ſuch as free warren in Kent, Surry, &c. He was likewiſe in that reign twice ſummoned to parliament. Our ſenate, at a ſucceeding period, we find either to have been greatly overſtocked with theſe dignitaries, there being no leſs within its walls at that time than ſixty-four abbots, and thirty-ſix priors, or, if their property gave them place there, our common wealth was moſt grievouſly overrun by a race of lazy and impoveriſhing caterpillars. In this latter ſentiment I am confirmed by a modern author, whom no one will ſuſpect of being adverſe to any ſpecies or order of mitred dignity. In his life of Sir Thomas Pope, he ſtates the attempt of Queen Mary " to reſtore the monaſteries to

" be

" be a meaſure which tended only to bring " back national poverty, with national ſu- " perſtition; for it is certain, that Henry's " diſtribution of the monaſtic revenues into " private hands, although dictated by ſelfiſh " and ſordid motives, founded the preſent " greatneſs of England." Yet, in his political rhapſodies, a modern Quixote and Ignatius, of chivalry and monkery, upon this ſubject ſays, " When ancient opi- " nions and rules of life are taken away, the " loſs cannot poſſibly be eſtimated." Experience ſeems already to have pronounced and decided upon the two oppoſite views of this queſtion, not only, on the one hand, by the flouriſhing ſtate of this iſland, ſince the diſtribution of the monaſtic revenues, but, on the other, by the national poverty and diſtreſs of a neighbouring country, ſo aggravated by retaining their ancient inſtitutions and " pre- " judices," as to have, in part, been the occaſion of impelling them to ſo deſperate a

remedy, as the convulſion and overthrow of their empire.

EDWARD II. reſided ſome time in Boxley Abbey, during which reſidence he granted a royal charter to the citizens of London, by which they were firſt empowered to elect a mayor from their own body, and at their own pleaſure. The abbey was formerly much famed for a wooden figure, called the Rood of Grace, the work of a needy carpenter, with which the prieſts for a long time deluded their credulous and ſilly followers, till the knavery being detected, the idol was defaced: "and even the abbey and town," ſays Lambard, "acording to the juſt judgment of "God, haſtened to utter decay and beggary."

THE clear yearly revenue of this abbey, at the diſſolution, amounted, according to Speed, to two hundred and eighteen pounds nine ſhillings.

FROM

Leeds Castle

FROM hence I ſhall conduct the reader to that noble and extenſive edifice, Leeds Caſtle, which is ſituated about three miles ſouth-eaſt of Maidſtone. A little river, commonly called the Len, which riſes at Ewell, and directs its courſe by Runham, Farborne, and Harrieſtſham to this caſtle, unites its ſtream in the neighbourhood with our Medway.

LEEDS CASTLE was anciently part of thoſe poſſeſſions laviſhly beſtowed by William the Conqueror on his brother, Odo, Biſhop of Baieux, (ſo frequently mentioned in this work) on whoſe diſgrace it was granted by the King to the eminent family of Crevequer, called, in ancient charters, De Crevequer and De Crepito Corde: from the family of Crevequer it was given by Edward II. to Bartholomew, Baron of Badilſmer, who treacherouſly fortified it againſt his Sovereign and benefactor; and, in the latter end of the year 1321, thought fit to give a peremptory refuſal

refuſal to Iſabel, the Queen, who ſolicited a night's lodging in this caſtle.

It ſeems, according to Leland, that this requeſt of the Queen was of a political nature, and that ſhe was ſent there by the King merely to afford a pretext under which he might effect the ruin of its owner. Be the motive as it might, the Baron's refuſal ſo enraged this Monarch, that he gave orders to beſiege the caſtle, and compelled it, though not till after much reſiſtance and bloodſhed, to ſurrender, and to ſubject himſelf to this dilemma—That if he refuſed her admittance he ſhould be puniſhed for diſreſpect and inhoſpitality; and that if he admitted her, he ſhould be overpowered, and his caſtle be taken poſſeſſion of by her numerous retinue. After the ſurrender he is ſaid, by one author, to have ordered this bold and treacherous Baron to be hung up at the gates. Leland ſays, he was taken priſoner the year following at Burrowbridge,

Burrowbridge, and beheaded at Canterbury; but it is agreed, by all writers, that his wife, ſon, and daughters were ſent priſoners to the Tower of London.

The immenſe ſtrength of this place induced our Monarchs, at all times, to look upon it with an eye of jealouſy; and though it was frequently granted to ſeveral great families in this county, it has as often, by attainder or eſcheat, come again into the hands of the Crown.

In the reign of Edward III. this fortreſs being greatly in decay, that able Monarch appointed "William of Wyckham chief "warden and ſurveyor of his caſtle of Ledes." The acknowledged ſkill and experience of that great prelate in architectural affairs, are abundant proof of the great conſideration in which this place was then held by its Royal maſter.

This

THIS caſtle, which during the reign of Richard II. frequently received him and his Royal ſtate, as appears from the date of ſeveral public inſtruments, was afterwards converted into the priſon of this unfortunate Monarch. He was ſent here by order of Henry IV., under whom it again became a Royal reſidence, he having retired here on account of a dreadful plague, which then raged in London, and carried off upwards of thirty thouſand perſons. After his death, Joan, of Navarre, his ſecond Queen, having been accuſed of conſpiring againſt the life of his ſon, Henry V., was committed a priſoner to this place, where ſhe remained till removed to the caſtle of Pevenſey in Suſſex.

ARCHBISHOP CHICHLEY, in the 18th of Henry VI., preſided in this caſtle at the trial of Eleanor, Dutcheſs of Glouceſter, on a charge of ſorcery and witchcraft. This unfortunate woman was afterwards indicted for

for high treaſon, and confeſſing part of the matter alleged, was ſentenced to a penance for three ſeveral days in London, and was afterwards committed to perpetual impriſonment in the Iſle of Man. In this caſtle Sir Thomas Bourchier, Knight, with others of the principal gentry in Kent, ſat to receive the oaths of allegiance to Richard III. from the inhabitants of this county. In the reign of Henry VIII. it received a conſiderable repair from Henry Guildford, who was appointed by that Monarch its Conſtable. The fee-ſimple of the caſtle and manor remained with the Crown till Edward VI., who granted them, with their appurtenances, to Sir Anthony St. Leger. From his family, after ſeveral alienations, it came to that of the Colepeppers, a deſcendant of whom, Sir John, was created a Peer by Charles I. in 1644, for his ſtrong attachment to the cauſe of that Monarch. From the marriage of his deſcendant, Catherine, with Thomas Lord Fairfax of

Cameron, in Scotland, this caſtle, &c. deſcended to its preſent poſſeſſor.

THE external appearance of this building is noble, and the extenſive range of it ſeems to have been preſerved with a very laudable care and attention. It is ſurrounded by a conſiderable body of water, which, in all probability, gave riſe to the title this caſtle frequently obtained in old writings of La Mote. So venerable a manſion, ſo long the favourite ſeat of ſuch an ancient and illuſtrious family, could not fail of carrying with it an intereſt in the mind of the moſt incurious and accidental viſitors. If this be ſo—to one led, with the pleaſing expectation of innocently gratifying himſelf, and perhaps affording no irrational amuſement to others, by the diſplay of the beauties of art and nature, with which this quarter of our iſland is enriched, it became of courſe a conſiderable object: but all acceſs was barred;

no approaches were ſuffered: and though it muſt be acknowledged, that theſe rigorous injunctions are dealt out with perfect equality, and that the neighbour is no leſs interdicted than the ſtranger, yet, I truſt, we may not be too harſhly cenſured, if, in the moment of diſappointment, we could not avoid minuting down the contraſt, which an anecdote recorded of an aged Lady Fairfax, in the time of the celebrated Dean of St. Patrick, of cynical memory, preſents between the habits of the preſent owner and the more courteous manners of his predeceſſor. The old Lady hearing that Swift was walking round the caſtle, and imagining he would be gratified with an interior view of it, politely ſent him an invitation for that purpoſe, to which we are told the churl, with as little of point as of civility, brutally replied, " tell your Lady I came here to ſee old walls, not old women."

East Farley . Aylesford Lathe

SECTION XI.

FROM Maidſtone the courſe of the river, though it narrows conſiderably above the Lock, is yet beautiful, and retains a depth of water of from near twelve to fourteen feet. About a mile above the town, at the pleaſant village of Tovil, on an eminence, commanding an extenſive and beautiful view, the Anabaptiſts have choſen a ſpot in a rocky and romantic ſituation, as a burial-place for their fraternity. Its elevation and diſtance from the river, ſeem to indicate, that, however fond they may have been of emerging in water, when living, they are determined to keep at a diſtance from that element in the ſtage beyond this life. In this vicinity the banks of the Medway continue highly ornamented with young oaks, and

"Verdant ſhrubs diſſimilarly gay;"

while

while the country around wears an appearance equal to that of a garden in its higheſt ſtate of cultivation.

At Eaſt Farley, which is about four miles from Maidſtone, the eye is attracted by a beautiful combination of objects; an ancient gothic bridge, in parts overgrown with ivy; the adjoining lock and village church, on an eminence, happily interſected by verdant trees and the luxuriant hop; while beneath

> "The ſilver Medway glides, and on her breaſt
> "Reflects the varied landſcape."

Two miles above this retired ſcene, on a ſudden bend of the river, an elegant view preſents itſelf, compoſed of the moſt ſimple objects in nature, a ſandy bank on one ſide of the river, and on the other a rich thicket of trees, affording under the evening ſun a beautiful and ſhady retreat; acroſs the ſtream a ſmall wooden bridge, over which the

Barming.

[illegible]

[illegible] ghbouring hill,"

is

the " lowing herd" are paſſing to their homes; and the lofty village ſpire of Barming, richly whitening in the diſtance. The wooden bridge a little below the ancient ford, is denominated Amherſt's Bridge, from a neighbouring gentleman who raiſed it, and has ſelected a beautiful ſpot for his reſidence, which ſtands at a proper diſtance from the water, and commands a delicious view of its winding courſe, and likewiſe of the ſurrounding country.

About a mile above the bridge we approach the pleaſant village, whoſe church contributed ſo much to embelliſh our laſt view: it is ſituated on a gentle eminence upon the northern bank of the Medway, and, though ancient, is yet preſerved with ſo much care and attention, as, from its perfect neatneſs, to ſtrike the obſerver, at a ſmall diſtance, as a modern building. The poet's idea of

" The decent church, that tops the neighbouring hill,"

is

is here fully verified. And Nature has been no leſs bountiful to this place in other and more eſſential particulars: its ſoil produces a great quantity of what is called Kentiſh Rag Stone, which affords a peculiar nouriſhment to the root of the hop, and the land is conſequently very productive in the growth of that uſeful plant.

BARMING HEATH is famed for its botanical productions, particularly the common camomile, and the great Nullein, or high taper, which is remarked to grow here to a much larger ſize than is ordinarily produced.

THE rectory of Barming is now in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. F. Noble, author of the Life of the Protector, Cromwell.

I CANNOT here refrain from paying a paſſing tribute to the memory of an elegant, but unfortunate, Child of the Muſe, whoſe fairy

fairy feet have not often been known to print the valleys of this diſtrict, ſince the groves of Penſhurſt reſounded with the melody of Sydney.

At Shipbourne, a ſmall village in this neighbourhood, about the year 1726, was born Chriſtopher Smart, an author, who, beſides being endeared to his countrymen by his Georgic on their favourite plant, and known and admired by all as a man of cultivated genius and poetical talent, and whoſe eſſay, upon a ſubject as high and dignified as can be well propoſed, "The immenſity of the Supreme Being," is, in ſimplicity and the true ſublime, hardly ſecond to any thing that our moſt elevated bards have produced. So energetic is his piety, and ſo commanding his eloquence, that though they place in a humiliating view the ſublimeſt efforts of that art which we wiſh to celebrate, and have ever looked up to with a ſpecies of enthuſiaſm,

yet no lover of the beauties of Nature and Poetry can, I truſt, refuſe to be carried along with him, when he exclaims

——— " What are the tow'rs,
" The work of lab'ring man and clumſy art,
" Seen with the ring-dove's neſt—on that tall beech
" Her penſile houſe the feather'd artiſt builds;—
" The rocking winds moleſt her not; for ſee,
" With ſuch due poize the wond'rous fabrick's hung,
" That, like the compaſs in the bark, it keeps
" True to itſelf and ſtedfaſt ev'n in ſtorms;
" Thou ideot that aſſerts, there is no God,
" View and be dumb for ever ———
" Go bid Vitruvius or Palladio build
" The bee his manſion, or the ant her cave—
" Go call Corregio, or let Titian come
" To paint the hawthorn's bloom, or teach the cherry
" To bluſh with juſt vermilion—hence away—
" Hence, ye prophane! for God himſelf is here."

To the weſt of Barming, on a noble aſcent from the Medway, ſtands Teſton Houſe, the manſion of Mrs. Bouverie; the extenſive and diverſified ſcenery which ſurrounds it, and the beautiful meandring ſtream beneath, highly enriched by its elegant ſtone bridge, afford

Teston Bridge, &c.

afford an enchanting combination of objects. The houſe is ancient, but has recently received ſuch liberal improvements and additions, as to give it the air of a new edifice; theſe, though they have their advantages over the Gothic in point of utility, do not, in my opinion, aid the pictureſque beauty of the ſcenery. The varied and interſected parts and ornaments of the ancient ſtyle appear to me, at all times, more grateful to the eye than the ſquare front, and as regularly diſpoſed ſquare windows of a modern erection. The houſe in the annexed view being at a great diſtance, and in part concealed, will, in ſome degree, apologize for its being introduced here as a pictureſque object. This ſeat was formerly called Berham, or Barham Court, an appellation derived from the family of that name, who were originally denominated Fitz Urſe. Randal Fitz Urſe, of this family, was one of the four Knights belonging to Henry II's houſehold, who undertook

the murder of Thomas Becket, in the cathedral of Canterbury, anno 1170. Of this ſtock was the famous Nicholas Barham, Serjeant at Law in the reign of Elizabeth, from whoſe family this manor deſcended to the Botelers: it afterwards, on a diviſion of the property, came by deviſe to the preſent owner, Mrs. Bouverie, who is related to the Earl of Radnor.

THE bridge acroſs the Medway, in the valley beneath, is of ſtone, and conſiſts of ſeven arches, the three principal of which may properly be denominated Cycloidal, the others Gothic: the bridge, though lofty, is yet often impaſſable, from the ſudden overflowing of the river, which here frequently riſes eighteen feet above its uſual ſurface in the courſe of twenty-four hours, and as ſuddenly falls again to its natural level. The road over this bridge leads from Sevenoak to Cocks heath and Yalding. Dr. Plot remarks

marks that he had diſcovered part of a Roman way that paſſed over the Medway in this neighbourhood, and ſeemed to point its courſe towards Lenham.

THE meadows that adjoin the river in this vicinity are remarked for their extraordinary produce of the Tanacetum, or Garden Tanſey.

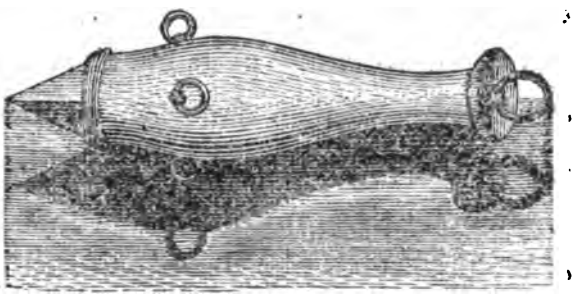
ABOUT a mile and a half above Teſton we paſs Watringbury, called, in The Textus Roffenſis, Wotringaberia; a name probably derived from its low and watery ſituation. This manor was anciently in the poſſeſſion of the Biſhop of Baieux, but, after various alienations, is now the property of Sir Thomas Stiles, Baronet, to whoſe family a handſome pyramidical monument is erected in the church-yard. In the window of the church is ſome curious ſtained glaſs repreſenting Edward III. and his Queen. The

ſtory

ſtory of the decollation of Saint John the Baptiſt in the ſouth window, was originally not ill told, but has ſuffered much, particularly from a heavy ſtorm of hail that fell ſome years ago.

A VERY ancient cuſtom, which was formerly obſerved in a part of this pariſh, called Pizein Well, may poſſibly, by the curious, not be thought unworthy of relation: — It was electing a deputy to a machine called The Dumb Borſholder of Chart, which claimed an authority over fifteen houſes in the precinct of Pizein Well; every houſeholder of which was formerly obliged to pay the keeper, or deputy, one penny yearly. This officer is made of wood, and is about three feet long, with an iron ring at the top, and four others at the ſides: to the bottom is affixed an iron ſpike, four inches and a half long, to faſten it in the ground, the better to enable it to perform

perform its office, which is that of breaking open doors, a ceremony formerly performed without the warrant of a juſtice of the peace, on a mere ſuſpicion of goods having been unlawfully obtained or concealed within this precinct of Pizein Well.



THE annexed ſketch of this wooden image may not be unacceptable to the curious: the original is now in the poſſeſſion of the family of Thomas Clampard, who was its laſt deputy, and who is by trade a blackſmith. The deputy was anciently elected at the court-leet, who held up this inſtrument when called for by a handkerchief, or cord, paſſed through the iron ring, fixed at the top, and thus became

became anſwerable for it as its keeper. This ancient cuſtom has been diſcontinued for ſome years.

A FEW miles weſtward is Mereworth-houſe: it is watered by a ſmall ſtream that empties itſelf into our gentle river, and has alſo, from the beauty of its ſituation, ample claim to our attention. This manſion recently devolved, with the title of Lord Lé Deſpencer, to Sir Francis Daſhwood, from the late Earl of Weſtmoreland, who erected this ſtructure after a deſign of Palladio, whoſe name ſtands ſo deſervedly pre-eminent in the liſt of architects. It was compleated under the direction of Colin Campbell, who, in moſt of his undertakings, ſeems to have diſplayed taſte and good ſenſe in ſelecting from the beſt maſters. The main part of this building ſtands on a ſquare, extending eighty-eight feet: each front has a handſome portico of the Ionic order: the grand façade is by a very noble flight of ſteps.

THE

The building is crowned with a ſemi-circular dome of timber, covered with lead, within which is another of ſtucco, that forms the ceiling of the ſalon, and is thirty-ſix feet in diameter. Beneath the two domes are twenty-four funnels that convey the ſmoak to the lantern above, which is finiſhed with copper. This ſubſtitute for chimneys certainly preſerves the building more entire, and gives a ſuperior air of grandeur to the deſign. Detached from this edifice are erected two ſpacious wings, at proper diſtances; one of which is uſed as a ſtable, the other as a kitchen. Offices detached from the houſe have certainly their convenience; and however ornamental they may in ſome caſes be deemed, will yet at the villa, where ſtill on Sundays muſt be had

"Two puddings ſmoaking on the board,"

not very readily be adopted as an improve-

ment by the citizen, who, in the article of TASTE, may be eaſily conceived to differ with the architect.

THE tout enſemble of this edifice, in taſte and deſign, is not unworthy the name of Palladio, who had previouſly carried this idea into execution in a villa built in the neighbourhood of Venice, for a noble eccleſiaſtic Paolo Almerico.

THE country around Merteworth is as rich in ſcenery as in its ſoil productive.

—— " Here the meads,
" Enrich'd by Flora's dœdal hand, with pride,
" Expoſe their ſpotted verdure. Nor is here
" Pomona abſent — ſhe, 'midſt the hoary leaves,
" Swells the vermilion cherry; and on each tree
" Suſpends the pippen's palatable gold."

SECTION

Nettlestead.

SECTION XII.

NETTLESTED, or as it is written in Doomſday-book, NEDESTEDE, is ſituated on the eaſtern bank of the Medway. The grand entrance to the ancient place-houſe of Nettleſted, as it appears in the annexed view, is yet ſtanding; and the uncouth mixture of the Gothic and Grecian therein diſcernible, denotes it to have been erected about the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, a period famed for its abſurdity and taſteleſs ornaments in building. The date, 1587, appears on a ſtone portal on the weſt front of the remain of this building, which I preſume to have been the æra of its repair, as other parts of the building carry with them much greater antiquity. It appears that a houſe of conſiderable conſequence was ſtanding on this ſpot as early as the reign of Edward III.

when

when Thomas de Pimpe, the then owner of the manor, paid an aid for the lands in Nettleſted, on conferring upon Edward the Black Prince, the honor of Knighthood, in the twentieth year of the reign of his father. William de Pimpe, the ſon, kept his ſhrievalty here three times, in the reign of Edward III. It afterwards, in the reign of Henry VII. came, by marriage, into the family of Sir John Scott, of Scott's Hall; in which it remained till the beginning of the preſent century, when it was alienated to Sir Philip Boteler of Teſton, Baronet, by whoſe will it paſſed into the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Bouverie, of Teſton Houſe, mentioned in the laſt ſection.

The manſion appears to have been ſpacious and magnificent for the period in which it was built. It is overrun with weeds and ſhrubs, and bears with it every mark of that viciſſitude and ruin, the inevitable lot of all the

the tranſitory labors of the hand of man, which however magnificent, and though ſupported by pillars of marble,

" Shall yet decay e'en as the moth's frail cell,
" Or ſheds of reeds, which ſummer's heat repell."

THE remain of this building is now only uſed as an oaſt, or kiln, for drying hops. This is done by ſpreading them on a hair cloth, about twelve feet ſquare, beneath which, at a diſtance of about eight feet, is a thick plate of iron, regularly heated from below by a ſpacious ſtove.

THE hops lie in this ſtate generally about twelve hours, before they are ſufficiently dried, and the quantity of coals or coke conſumed in this operation is about a hundred buſhels.

THE hops thus dried are put into bags, and

and preſſed down by a man, who continues treading on them for that purpoſe. This operation in one of the Gothic apartments of this venerable building, had rather a whimſical effect; and ſeemed ſo ſtrongly contraſted with its original uſes, as to induce me to give a ſketch of what then preſented itſelf.

THE floor of this ancient room of ſtate, deeply covered with hops, and in the midſt of it a ruſtic, half buried in a ſack, treading them

Twyford-bridge Aylesford Lathe.

them down, in a kind of perpetual motion, as if bit by a tarantula, or troubled with St. Vitus's dance.

At a ſmall diſtance from Nettleſted, on the oppoſite bank of the river, ſtands the ſeat of Sir John Shaw, a retired and not ill-choſen ſituation. About a mile above this manſion, we paſs a large kiln for the purpoſe of burning pit-coal into coke; an operation performed by laying the coal under earth, and when ſet on fire quenching the cinders. The ſame mode is uſed in making charcoal from wood. To form the coke, a chaldron of coals requires about eighteen hours burning.

We now approach the ancient bridge of Twyford, which is built of ſtone, and has more of utility than ornament in its conſtruction. The arches are Gothic, with ſtrong

ſtrong angular buttreſſes raiſed againſt the piers, and are carried to the upper part of the ſide-walls,

THE adjoining village of Twyford, from which the bridge derives its name, was written, in the book of Doomſday, Tuiferde, an appellation that it obtained from the two Fords which formerly exiſted over the two ſtreams of the Medway, which branch off from this place.

FROM the bridge, a ſmall ſtream of the Medway runs to Yalding, about a mile diſtance, but is not navigable. At Yalding bridge it is joined by the Hunton river, which derives its ſources from various ſprings at Great Chart, Ulcomb, Eaſt Sutton, and Cranbrook, in this county.

FROM Twyford bridge, the river bears its courſe eaſtward, through a fertile country, whoſe

Brandtbridge Aylesford Lathe.

whoſe meadows are famed for producing the largeſt, and beſt breed of cattle, in this county. The firſt pictureſque object that preſents itſelf deſerving notice is Brantbridge, in the pariſh of Eaſt Peckham.

THE retired and romantic ſituation of this ſpot is ſo peculiarly ſtriking, as to render it impoſſible for the eye of obſervation to paſs it unnoticed. It is one of thoſe ſimple and intereſting ſcenes, from the ſtudy of which the Dutch and Flemiſh artiſts, as well as the judicious of our own country, have eſtabliſhed a laſting fame. Nor is this ſpot the only one in this vicinity to be admired for its pictureſque beauties; the various meanderings and receſſes of the river affording perpetual ſcenes of that ſimplicity in nature, which produces the elegant in landſcape.

THE many rivulets which croſs the adjoining meadows in aid of our river, their

ſmall wooden bridges, and the various objects perpetually paſſing them, preſent that moveable ſcenery, which is in landſcape, of all others, and particularly in rural views, the moſt enlivening and acceptable.

At Hartlake bridge we approach what is called a Flowing Bolt; an ingenious contrivance to pen up the water to a certain degree, ſo that it may, in a dry ſeaſon, at proper times, be let out to water the neighbouring meadows. The groves of young oaks, elms, and other trees, planted along the borders of this river, contribute in no ſmall degree to the beauty of the ſcenery, which is conſiderably heightened by the rich gardens of hops that are frequently intervening.

Within about two miles of Tunbridge the Medway branches out into ſeveral ſmall ſtreams, five of which unite at the town; and

Tunbridge.

and having each its ſtone bridge, this circumſtance, in all probability, gave it the name of Town of Bridges, or Tunbridge. To this place, ſince the year 1740, the river Medway was rendered navigable from Maidſtone; in the courſe of which diſtance there is no tide, and but little current. It has the locks to aid its navigation, which is conducted by what is called the Tunbridge Company: all merchandize, except ſtone, pays four-pence per ton per mile. Camden ſays a ſtatute paſſed in the ſixteenth year of Charles II. for making this river navigable in Kent and Suſſex; but it does not ſeem to have been enforced with much effect, as it is now, in dry ſeaſons, frequently not navigable.

The principal ſtone bridge over the river at Tunbridge was begun in Auguſt 1775, when the firſt ſtone was laid on the foundation of the old one, and finiſhed about the

Eaſter following, at a county expence of eleven hundred pounds: the former bridge was likewiſe of ſtone, but ſo much decayed as to be in a ſtate of danger. The preſent ſtructure is from a deſign of Mr. Mylne: it is neat and ſubſtantial, calculated more for utility than ornament.

THE venerable ruins of the caſtle, with its extended walls, and ivy-mantled towers, appear above the bridge in a very picturesque form.

THIS caſtle was built ſoon after the Conqueſt by Richard De Clare, who received a grant of the manor from his relation, the Biſhop of Baieux, half-brother to the Conqueror. This inſatiable prelate, it is ſaid, obtained this manor, with twenty-two others, from the See of Canterbury, in a way that did no great credit to his reputation: the church however got the better of the prieſt, and

and recovered the other twenty-two manors out of his clutches, but he was permitted by Lanfranc, the then Archbiſhop of Canterbury, at the inſtance of the King, to retain this his favourite reſidence. In return for the caſtle, it appears that Richard De Clare gave an equivalent in land, and his caſtle at Brionne in Normandy.

THE tenure of this manor was again diſputed by that haughty prieſt Thomas Becket, and continued many years in ſuit, till, in the reign of Henry III. a compoſition took place between the See of Canterbury and the Clares, then Earls of Glouceſter; to whom it was relinquiſhed, on condition that they ſhould be chief butlers and high ſtewards at the inſtalment of the Archbiſhops; they on the other hand granting to the Archbiſhops the wardſhip of their children, and poſſibly the care of their wives.

THIS manor, caſtle, &c. came to the Crown by the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII. thence to Lord Hunſdon, in the time of Elizabeth, and in the reign of William III. the town of Tunbridge gave the title of Viſcount to the anceſtor of the preſent Earl of Rochford, William Henry of Naſſau, nearly related to his Sovereign.

THIS famous caſtle, once the favoured ſeat of the firſt Peers and moſt exalted minds, affords at preſent little more than a ſubject for reflection on the viciſſitudes of earthly greatneſs: its keep, which ſtill remains, is overgrown with ivy, and its extenſive fragments of ſtone walls, which, by their immenſe thickneſs, ſeem calculated to have once withſtood the utmoſt exertions of an enemy, are now with as much caution preſerved to bar the entrance of a curious and inquiſitive traveller; and it will not be much a matter

of

of wonder, if, in this fortifying age, heavy cannon ſhould ſoon be placed on its walls, to enſure the ſecurity of its preſent poſſeſſor, who, I am informed, has given a general order to prevent any perſon from ſeeing the interior of this venerable place.

DOMESTIC privacy is unqueſtionably ſacred, nor ought it to be invaded; but in the commerce of the world ſome ſacrifices have ever been made to public opinion and public curioſity; and at ſtated periods and preſcribed ſeaſons, at the intervals of a week, a fortnight, or a month, the curteſy of the higheſt ranks of this kingdom has thrown open their gardens and palaces to the eye of the ſtranger and traveller.

BENEATH the walls of theſe ancient ruins, the ſloping grounds that beautifully incline towards the river, ſtill indicate the ſituation of the once famous vineyard, reported to have

have flouriſhed here, and which is adduced as a proof of the early cultivation of the grape in this county. The Medway, though narrow, is navigable for ſmall boats from hence about a mile, where a ſmall ſtreamlet bends its courſe towards Hillden green, and loſes itſelf near Shipbourn, while the principal channel purſues its way towards Penſhurſt; to which place I preſume it might with eaſe be made navigable, ſhould the proprietors, who are impowered to complete the navigation as far as Foreſt row in Suſſex, think it an object of ſufficient importance.

About two miles from Tunbridge, although at ſome diſtance from the river, I cannot omit to mention a Gothic manſion called Great Bounds, probably ſo named from its being the extreme boundary of the lowy, or liberty of Tunbridge. This houſe was anciently in the poſſeſſion of Lord Berkley, the proprietor of Tunbridge caſtle, till, in the

the beginning of the reign of James I. it was conveyed to Sir Thomas Smythe, whoſe deſcendant married the famous Lady Dorothy Sydney, the Sachariſſa of Waller. The very extenſive and richly diverſified proſpect which this place commands, peculiarly merits the attention of the ſtranger. Among other objects, the moſt conſpicuous within our view, is Somerhill, the reſidence of William Woodgate, Eſq. This venerable manſion was built by the Earl of St. Albans, in the reign of Charles I.

The grand ſtate apartment is noble and ſpacious, and retains its original form, as well as much of its gilding and other decorations: but many of the out-offices yet remaining give ſtrong marks of much more ancient date, which muſt have been the caſe, as this ſpot was once the reſidence of Sir Francis Walſingham. From this eminent Stateſman

it devolved to his daughter Frances: a lady, the ſplendor of whoſe matrimonial connections, if we take into our conſideration the rank and diſtinguiſhed eminence of the perſons choſen, has hardly been equalled in the hiſtory of female life. Her firſt choice was the renowned Sir Philip Sydney, then the unfortunate Earl of Eſſex, and laſtly Richard de Burgh, Marquis of Clanrickard and Earl of St. Albans, who built this ſeat. The heir of this extraordinary lady was Margaret Viſcounteſs Purbeck. This diſtinguiſhed manſion affords us alſo another leſſon of the inſtability of every thing human.

In Walker's Hiſtory of Independance, he ſays "Somerhill, a pleaſant ſeat, worth one "thouſand pounds a year, belonging to the "Earl of St. Albans, is given by the junto to "their bloodhound Bradſhaw: ſo he hath "warned the Counteſſe of Leiceſter (who

"formerly

" formerly had it in poſſeſſion to raiſe " a debt of three thouſand pounds, pre- " tended due to her from the ſaid Earle; " which ſhe hath already raiſed fourfold) to " quit the poſſeſſion againſt our Lord-day " next."

Penshurst

SECTION XIII.

PENSHURST PLACE, if we alone take into our conſideration the celebrity of its former poſſeſſor, the gallant and all-accompliſhed Sir Philip Sydney, could not properly have been paſſed unnoticed; but it has in itſelf, as a ſpacious and venerable remain of antiquity, a ſtill higher claim to our attention. It is to be regretted, that the ſize of this undertaking is rather too confined to admit of an illuſtration of all the parts of this noble and extenſive building. We have yet attempted to give ſome idea of the ſcenery, by obtaining the beſt point of view for comprizing the whole, in which the church of Penſhurſt, with its venerable tower and Gothic ſpires breaking through the intervening thicket of trees, is included.

THE neighbouring village of Penſhurſt, or as it is ſometimes written in ancient records, Penceſtre, derives its name from the old Britiſh word PEN, the ſummit, or top of any place, and HYRST, a wood.

FROM the name of this place Waller, with more gallantry than truth, took occaſion to aſcribe to his Sachariſſa, Lady Dorothy Sydney, who reſided here, the power of changing the wildneſs and luxuriance of the natural beauties of nature, into the regularity of a garden, and that

" Her preſence had ſuch more than human grace,
" That it could civilize the rudeſt place,
" And beauty too, and order could impart,
" When Nature ne'er intended it, nor Art."

PENSHURST Place was, in the time of Edward I., in the poſſeſſion of Sir Stephen De Peneſhurſte, who was made Conſtable of Dover Caſtle, and Warden of the Cinque Ports by

by Henry III.; after which it was conveyed to John De Pulteney, who, in the reign of Edward II. had licenſe to embattle his manſion-houſe of Penſhurſt; and, in the reign of Edward III. he was ſo highly favoured as to receive from that Prince the honour of Knighthood. In the ſame reign he was four times elected to the high office of Lord Mayor of the city of London. From this family it came by marriage to Sir John Devereux, who, in the ſucceeding reign of Richard II. had alſo a licenſe to embattle and fortify this manſion. After paſſing through ſeveral hands it was at length forfeited to the Crown, in the fourth year of Edward VI. by the attainder of Sir Ralph Vane. The eſtate was then given by that young Prince, in 1553, to Sir William Sydney, who enjoyed it but a few months: from him it devolved to his infant ſon, Sir Henry, who, from his childhood, was bred at Court, and was the playmate and bed-fellow of Prince Edward.

The

The young Monarch afterwards made him Gentleman of the Privy Chamber; and is ſaid to have taken ſo much delight in his company, as to have rarely permitted his abſence. The young Prince expired in his arms at Greenwich ſoon after; at which period Sir Henry retired to Penſhurſt, there to indulge his grief; and by thus withdrawing himſelf eſcaped the fury of the times, and moſt probably the fatal conſequences that attended his father-in-law, the Duke of Northumberland, in the ſucceeding reign of the bigotted Mary. This fact is adverted to in the inſcription over the gate-way at the grand entrance.

THIS ancient manſion has been formerly a place of conſiderable ſtrength, as appears from its immenſe walls and high embattled towers. The principal entrance to the great quadrangle, which is of hewn ſtone, is nearly in its original Gothic ſtate of deſign,

and

and impreſſes the mind very forcibly with the gloomy and reſerved pomp of our brave anceſtors. The hall is ſpacious and lofty, and the fragments of ancient armour, here exhibited ſtrongly, recall to memory

" The ancient errant Knights,
" Who won their ladies hearts in fights,
" And cut whole Giants into fritters,
" To put them into amorous twitters."

We ſee here the Knights of Chivalry in ancient times making impreſſion upon their ladies' hearts in battle, and hacking and hewing their way into their affections: and if ſuch ſtrange things as theſe could avail in love, can we wonder that the modern champion of this ſublime profeſſion ſhould endeavour to mix arms with eloquence; and, for the purpoſe of impreſſing his audience, ſhould be found flouriſhing his dagger in aid of the flights of his oratory.

THE apartments of this famous manſion have been much modernized within a few years by the late owner, William Perry, Eſq. who became poſſeſſed of this eſtate by marriage with the Honourable Elizabeth Sydney, niece to the late Earl of Leiceſter.

AMONG other pictures in this manſion two particularly merit attention: the one of Sir Philip, the other of his ſiſter, the Counteſs of Pembroke—A family reſemblance may eaſily be diſcovered. The countenance of the latter highly juſtifies the poet's warmeſt eulogium. And in the features of the former may be traced the elegant and placid mind of the accompliſhed gentleman.

IN contemplating this venerable and extenſive pile, the mind naturally reverts to that period in which it received its greateſt ornament, by giving birth to Sir Philip Sydney in 1554. Ben Johnſon poetically obſerves, that

that on this occaſion " All the Muſes met:" and other writers aſſert, that in him was born the " darling of his time, and of his " country." We may likewiſe add, on the authority of Sir Fulke Grevil, if the teſtimony of a father may be relied on, that in this child, at a very tender age, he had noticed ſuch ſtrong marks of genius and character, that he pronounced him to be " lumen fa- " miliæ," the light of his family.

No apology ſeems neceſſary for this partiality of the parent towards the child, ſince all Europe with one conſent ſeem to have pronounced him the compleateſt gentleman of his time: every accompliſhment ſat eaſy upon him; he was wiſe and learned in the ſchools; gallant in the field; and, as a courtier, as free from the pedantry of the one, as from the boiſterous manners of the other. He obtained various poſts of honour from his Sovereign: he was deemed worthy

to be put in nomination for the Crown of Poland; an honour, which probably might have been conferred, had not the Queen refuſed to further his promotion, leſt, as ſhe expreſſed herſelf, ſhe ſhould " loſe the jewel " of her time."

THESE extraordinary diſtinctions at home and abroad, the correctneſs of his morals, and the heroiſm and humanity which he diſplayed in the cloſing act of his life, place him as a ſcholar, a ſtateſman, a ſoldier, and a man, in as elevated a point of view as human nature has ever been known to attain.

HIGH as this extraordinary character ſeems to have ranked in the eyes of all Europe, and univerſally as his works were at that time read; and though it was in the opinion of Lord Brook, a diſtinguiſhed poet of his day, thought an honor to have it inſcribed upon

upon his tomb, " The friend of Sir Philip " Sydney," yet a modern noble author not only eſtimates the extraordinary qualifications of this great man, by a ſtandard very different from that which was uſed by the beſt judging of his own age; but has alſo by an impotent attack endeavoured to traduce his heroiſm: he aſſerts, that " no man " ſeems to him ſo aſtoniſhing an object of " temporary admiration;" and proceeds to aſk, " when we enquire what prodigious " merits excited ſuch admiration, what do " we find?" " Great valour." But it was " an age of heroes."

To a plain man it ſhould ſeem to be more eaſy to acquire a reputation for valour in the age of effeminacy, than in that of heroiſm; and, he who was feared by the ſoldiers of Alva, can never be robbed of his laurels in any age, or by any reaſoning. It would hardly be better founded to ſay, that no royal

or

or noble author of the preſent day can be poſſeſſed of diſtinguiſhed merit, becauſe the preſs does not at this period teem with the literary labours of Princes and of Peers.

Of the qualities of his mind, and his literary productions, he obſerves, "in full "of all other talents we have a tedious, "lamentable, pedantic, paſtoral romance, "which the patience of a young virgin in "love cannot now wade through."

Notwithstanding there may be ſome truth in this remark, yet with due reſpect to the diſcernment of his contemporaries, both wits and ſcholars; and adverting to the degree of refinement which our language had at that time attained, even the "Arcadia," did not merit ſo indiſcriminate a cenſure.

Whatever may be the caſe now, we find

find from an author of the times, quoted by the late Mr. Warton, in the laſt volume of his "Hiſtory of Poetry," that the graveſt monitions were thought neceſſary to reſtrain the young women of that age from reading it more than enough.—The advice given is, "Let the ladies learne plaine workes of all "kinde, ſo they take heed of too open "ſeaming: and inſtead of reading Sir Philip "Sydney's Arcadia, let them reade THE "GROUNDES OF GOOD HUSWIFERY."

AND, I ſhall add, merely from the ſingularity of the circumſtance, for it would be otherwiſe idle to accumulate proofs of the notorious popularity of this work—that the celebrated but unfortunate Lord Eſſex, upon his return from Portugal, in 1596, was addreſſed in a poem, called "An Egloge "Gratulatorie, entituled to the Right Ho-"nourable and renowned SHEPHERD OF "ALBIONS ARCADIE, Robert Earl of Eſſex:"

and

and even ſo late as the middle of the next century, Dr. Heylin, an author, who is called the learned ornament of our nation, writes thus of Sir Philip Sydney: "I cannot "make too honourable a mention of him, and "of his Arcadia, a book which, beſides its "excellent language, rare contrivance, and "delectable ſtories, hath in it all the ſtrains "of poeſie; comprehendeth the whole art of "ſpeaking; and to thoſe who can diſcern, and "will obſerve, affordeth notable rules of de-"meanour, both private and public." We find him alſo thus deſcribed by a wit, in an elegant couplet, though marked with the characteriſtical quaintneſs of the times:

"'Twould make one think (ſo ſweet of love he ſings)
"His pens were quills pluck'd off from Cupid's wings."

We ſhall cloſe our teſtimonies on the merits of this high and unblemiſhed character, by oppoſing to the noble author we have quoted, the authority of a copy of royal verſes,

verſes in the language of that noble author himſelf, " under the reſpectable name of " James I."

" When Venus ſaw the noble Sydney dying,
" She thought it her beloved Mars had been;
" And with the thought thereat ſhe fell a crying,
" And caſt away her rings and carknets clean.
" He that in death a Goddeſs mockt and grieved,
" What had he done (trow you) if he had lived!"

It is impoſſible to reflect on the conduct of our Engliſh Virgil, Sydney, to the poor and neglected Spencer, without allowing that he had a ſoul for the muſe, and a

" Hand Open as day for melting charity."

The peculiar circumſtances attending the patronage of our bard, may, perhaps, though well known, yet not be thought unworthy recital.

To Sydney then Spencer introduced him-

ſelf with no other recommendation than the merit of a fragment of his own work, the "Picture of Deſpair" in his "Legend of Holineſs;" and ſo true and determined was that great man's judgment, that, without waiting for the opinion of the world, with whoſe teſtimony he has ſince been abundantly ſanctioned, declared himſelf at once his admirer; and, in a tranſport of pleaſure, as it is ſaid, ordered him fifty pounds a piece, for ſeveral ſtanzas, with this exceſſive compliment: "Make haſte! leſt I ſhould be obliged to give "you my whole eſtate."

THE following ſtanzas of Fletcher, in his Purple Iſland, are ſo elegantly turned, ſo feelingly delineate the neglected talents, as well as fate, of the Bard, and, by ſo happy a contraſt, exalt the character of his noble patron, that I have introduced them in this place without preface or apology.

"Witneſſe

" Witneſſe our Colin*; whom though all the graces,
" And all the muſes nurſt; whoſe well-taught ſong
" PARNASSUS ſelf, and GLORIAN† embraces,
" And all the learn'd, and all the ſhepherds throng;
" Yet all his hopes were croſt, all ſuits deni'd;
" Diſcourag'd, ſcorn'd, his writings vilifi'd;
" Poorly (poor man) he liv'd; poorly (poor man) he di'd.

" And had not that great HART‡, (whoſe honour'd head
" Ah lies full low) piti'd thy wofull plight;
" There hadſt thou lien unwept, unburied,
" Unbleſt, nor grac't with any common rite:
" Yet ſhalt thou live, when thy great foe§ ſhall ſink
" Beneath his mountain tombe, whoſe fame ſhall ſtink;
" And time his blacker name ſhall blurre with blackeſt ink.

" O let th' Iambick Muſe revenge that wrong,
" Which cannot ſlumber in thy ſheets of lead:
" Let thy abuſed honour crie as long
" As there be quills to write, or eyes to reade:
" On his rank name let thine own votes be turn'd;
" *Oh may that man that hath the Muſes ſcorn'd,*
" *Alive, nor dead, be ever of a Muſe adorn'd!*

AT the birth of Sir Philip an oak was planted in the park, on the ſpot now called

* Spencer. † a Elizabeth. ‡ Sir Philip Sydney. § Lord Burleigh.

Bears Oak. This oak is celebrated by Waller in the following lines:

" Go, boy, and carve this paſſion on the bark
" Of yonder tree, which ſtands the ſacred mark
" Of noble Sydney's birth; when ſuch benign,
" Such more than mortal-making ſtars did ſhine;
" That there they cannot but for ever prove
" The monument, and pledge of humble love."

WHETHER the tree now ſhewn (of which the annexed ſketch is a portrait) be the identical one here alluded to or no, I cannot aſcertain,

aſcertain, but, from its venerable appearance, it may be poſſible. It meaſures twenty-two feet in circumference; and within the hollow of its ſpacious trunk is affixed a ſeat capable of receiving ſeveral perſons. This noble tree ſtands near a fine piece of water called Lancup Well.

THIS park and neighbourhood is celebrated for the large growth of its trees, one of which was cut down about eight years ſince, and produced eight hundred and forty feet of timber, weighing twenty-one tons.

NEAR Well Place, in the park, there is a fine ſpring called Kidder's Well, which has been found, on analizing it, to be a ſtronger chalybeate than thoſe of Tunbridge. The ſpring riſes into a ſtone baſon, which was erected by an Earl of Leiceſter many years ago. In the neighbourhood of Penſhurſt there

are

are many other ſprings, which are likewiſe found to partake more or leſs of the chalybeate quality; it is worthy of remark, that the vicinity is famed for its veins of iron.

In a deep hole in the river Medway, called Tapner's Hole, near the lower end of this park, a ſtrong ebullition appears on the ſurface of the water, from a ſpring which riſes beneath. The park conſiſts of four hundred and twenty acres, but has not, in my judgment, ſuch advantages of proſpect or ſituation as are to be found in other parts of this fertile county. Under this impreſſion, and from the decayed and neglected ſtate of the building, it is with regret I contemplate the probability of a total decay of this manſion of Heroes. Should that event take place, and no ſtone remain to indicate its former greatneſs, yet ſhall imagination fondly trace the ſpot where Sydney firſt drew breath, that

Sydney,

Sydney, whoſe name can never be forgotten while elegance of manners and true greatneſs of mind ſhall be thought to dignify human nature.

I CANNOT quit Penſhurſt without mentioning an additional honour it has received in giving birth to the renowned Algernoon Sydney, whoſe zeal and integrity in the cauſe of patriotiſm, and deep ſkill in the ſcience of government, muſt ever render him dear to the lover of his country. In an academical prize poem ample juſtice has been done to his merits by the elegant pen of a dignitary of the church, and one of its preſent ornaments:

" Unconquer'd Patriot! form'd by ancient lore,
" The love of ancient freedom to reſtore;
" Who nobly acted what he boldly thought,
" And ſeal'd by death the leſſon that he taught!

THE ſtream of the Medway paſſing the extremity of the gardens at Penſhurſt winds its

its narrow courſe towards Hever, about a mile weſtward of Chidingſtone, through which place the river Eden paſſes, and near which it joins the Medway.

SECTION

Hever Castle

SECTION XIV.

THE remain of the ancient caſtle of Hever, here preſented, is nearly perfect in its exterior form. It was conſtructed in the reign of Edward III. by William De Hever, who had licenſe to embattle it, as was cuſtomary, at that period: from that family it came by marriage to the Cobhams of this county, from whom it derived the compound name of Hever Cobham. It was by one of that family ſold to Sir Geoffry Bulleyne, Knight, grandfather to Lady Ann Bulleyne, the ill-fated Queen of Henry VIII. Her father, Sir Thomas, was advanced by this Monarch to the title of Viſcount Rochford, and afterwards, in the 21ſt year of his reign, to that of Earl of Wiltſhire and Ormond. This nobleman completely repaired,

and made many additions to, the caſtle. His daughter, Ann Bulleyne, reſided here at the time Henry paid his court to her, and the apartment in which ſhe ſlept, ſtill retains her name. Several letters of the amorous tyrant are now exiſting, which are addreſſed to her at this place.

AFTER the death of her father, the King ſeized on this caſtle, with its demeſnes, in right of his late wife, the Earl's daughter. They remained in his hands till the thirty-ſecond year of his reign, when he granted them, in 1541, to another of his wives, the Lady Ann of Cleves; whoſe fate, though ſhort of death, was little leſs unfortunate. After her repudiation, this caſtle became her reſidence; and ſhe held it on the hard terms of not being ſuffered to quit the realm without the King's conſent, or that of his ſucceſſors. Here ſhe remained, during

during her life, for a lingering period of about twelve years: ſhe died in the fourth year of the reign of Philip and Mary, at which time this caſtle reverted to the Crown. It was afterwards given by Queen Mary to Sir Edward Waldegrave; whoſe family, in the year 1715, conveyed it to Sir William Humphreys, Baronet, then Lord Mayor of London; and, in the year 1745, it was purchaſed by Timothy Waldo, Eſq. in whoſe family it now remains.

The neighbouring village of Hever has little to recommend it to notice. It was anciently part of the extenſive patrimony of Sir Stephen De Pencheſter, or Penſhurſt. In the church is an altar tomb of black marble, erected to the memory of the Earl of Wiltſhire, father to Ann Bulleyne, on which is his effigy in braſs, dreſſed in the robes of the Garter. This neighbourhood is famed for its fertile production of oak

trees, which grow to an uncommon large ſize.

THE river Eden, deemed one of the principal ſtreams that fall into the Medway, paſſes Hever in its courſe from Eden Bridge. It derives its ſource from ſeveral ſprings in the vicinity of Crowhurſt, in the County of Surry.

RETURNING to Penſhurſt, another ſtream falls into the Medway, flowing from Cowdon, an obſcure village in this county, near which it divides itſelf into ſeveral ſmall channels towards Starborough caſtle, in Surry, from whence it is ſupplied by various copious ſprings.

As this part of the river affords no object particularly attractive, I ſhall purſue its eaſtern direction towards Tunbridge Wells, in which courſe it branches forth from the vicinity of Chafford, where formerly ſtood a

ſeat

ſeat of Sir George Rivers, Baronet, now the property of Sir Peter Rivers Gay.

THE Medway then paſſes the village of Aſhurſt, or the Wood of Aſhes, once famed for the ſuperſtition of its inhabitants, whoſe credulity was ſo great, as to believe in the growth of the nails and hair, and even of the body, of a wooden crucifix, which was occaſionally ſhewn to them by their wily prieſt, who, whatever might be thought of the increaſe of the figure, himſelf probably grew ſleek and fat, upon this addition to his benefice.

BETWEEN this village and Groombridge the Medway again takes ſeveral directions towards Aſhdown and Waterdown Foreſts, in Suſſex, where it is ſupplied by various ſprings.

GROOMBRIDGE is about three miles from Tunbridge Wells, and is within the pariſh of

of Speldhurſt; it has formerly been a place of much note, and was anciently called Gromenebregge, a name probably derived from that of a noble Saxon, who is reputed to have been its original proprietor, and from whom it came to the family of the Cobhams and the Clintons: they ſold it to the renowned Knight, Sir Richard Waller, who accompanied Henry V. into France, and there highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the field of Agincourt. In that famous battle he is ſaid to have found the Duke of Orleans amidſt the ſlain, with ſmall ſigns of life remaining, when, by the King's order, he was committed to the care and cuſtody of this Knight, who conducted him priſoner to Groombridge. At this manſion he was kept in honourable confinement twenty-five years. On paying four hundred thouſand crowns for his ranſom he obtained his releaſe; and ſo highly was he ſatisfied with the liberal treatment of his generous hoſt, that he re-

built

built his manſion, and repaired the pariſh church, over the porch of which his arms are ſtill to be ſeen. As a further mark of his approbation, and perpetual memorial of his merits, he aſſigned to Sir Richard, and his heirs for ever, the eſcutcheon of France, ſuſpended on a walnut-tree, with this motto, "Hi fructus virtutis."

Between Groombridge Place and the Wells, the immenſe craggy rocks and deep vallies, with the lofty cliffs and narrow gloomy chaſms that lead through them, yield a more noble ſpecies of ſcenery than has yet preſented itſelf in this purſuit. Some of theſe eminences are more than ſeventy feet in height, and ſtrike the beholder from the vallies beneath, with a peculiar degree of pleaſure and aſtoniſhment. This romantic and retired ſcenery is within two miles of the Wells, and is a retreat much frequented by the company who reſort thither; the annexed

nexed ſketch, from a ſcene in the high road, will faintly convey an idea of a place on which various conjectures and opinions have been formed. From the wonderful and ſingular appearance of nature, and the varied and irregular diſpoſition of theſe rocky prominencies, little doubt remains of their being the effect of ſome violent convulſion of the earth.

The general face of the neighbouring country corroborates the idea; but at what period this may have happened, philoſophy is not able to trace, nor hiſtory to reveal. In the foreſt of this neighbourhood is a limpid ſpring of very delicious water, known by the appellation of Adam's Well; the virtues of which ſeem to be of ſtill more ancient date than the adjacent wells at Tunbridge. It is only within a few years that this place has been acceſſible by carriages, and it has ever been with difficulty reached even by perſons

on

The Rocks near Tunbridge Wells.

on foot, who were obliged to ſcramble over hedge, bramble, and brier to attain it.

THE well was purchaſed by the late Mr. Pinchbeck within the laſt thirty years, through the perſuaſion of a Yorkſhire attorney and others, whoſe horſes had been materially benefited by the uſe of the waters. If the poem, from which the following lines are extracted, be true, this Well may fairly rival the waters of Lethe, for here all chronic and other complaints, not to except the pangs ariſing from the tender paſſion, may be removed, and every human ill

" Yields to its balmy power;
" Diſabled limbs, inflamed eyes,
" And boſoms full of plaintive ſighs,
" Are ſoften'd ev'ry hour."

THE river Medway, in its courſe towards Speldhurſt, works ſeveral mills, and at the village it acquires ſufficient ſtrength to ſup-

ply a conſiderable iron foundery, called Barden Furnace, where cannon of the largeſt dimenſions have formerly been made; and in the neighbourhood a great quantity of iron ore has been dug up.

The efficacy of the medicinal waters at Tunbridge Wells are ſo well known as to render a minute hiſtory of them unneceſſary. The virtues of theſe waters are reported to have been accidentally diſcovered in the beginning of the reign of James I. by Dudley Lord North, while he reſided in this neighbourhood. The ſprings then opened were ſeven in number, which were ſoon afterwards reſorted to by multitudes of the middling and lower claſs of people, who received great benefit from them; theſe ſprings, being on the borders of Lord Abergavenny's eſtates, it became his intereſt to give them every advantage in his power; he therefore cleared them of all incumbrances, ordered wells to be ſunk, a

pavement

pavement to be laid round them, and the whole to be incloſed with wooden rails. In the year 1630 Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I. was adviſed to viſit this place for the recovery of her health; and tents were erected for her reception upon Biſhop's Down Common, as at that time, no houſe ſtood on this deſart part of the county. She is ſaid to have one day walked from the well into the borders of Suſſex, where, growing weary, ſhe ſat down on a bank for repoſe, after which ſhe ordered a ſtone to be placed there in remembrance of her excurſion; and ſome adulatory lines were added thereto by one of her attendants. Of the ſtone, or inſcription, no trace is to be found; but the ſpot has ſerved as a reſting place to many a weary traveller ſince her time, as an ale-houſe has been erected thereon, in the road to Frant, and is known by the ſign of the Black Dog.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, in the reign of Charles II., was much patronized by his Queen and the Royal Family, and under ſuch diſſipated influence it became as much the ſeat of gaiety and faſhion, as the reſort of diſeaſe and infirmity. About this period every improvement and accommodation took place; and it has ſince continued, particularly with perſons of the firſt faſhion, to hold the higheſt rank amongſt our places of public reſort.

THE air of this vicinity is deemed peculiarly ſalubrious; and its rides, in point of proſpect, are delightful; but the depth of ſand in the high roads renders them, at the ſeaſon when the wells are moſt frequented, extremely unpleaſant.

THE various mounts, Ephraim, Sion, &c. have each their claim to notice; the appellation of the latter has been given within the laſt

laſt century by an honeſt publican, of the name of Jordan, who built the firſt houſe on this ſpot.

THE produce of the ſurrounding country is fertile in the growth of the holly, ſycamore, yew and other trees, from which an ingenious manufactory of uſeful and elegant inlaid works, has been eſtabliſhed. Among other luxuries for which Tunbridge Wells is famed, the delicious wheat-ear, or Engliſh ortolan, ſhould not be forgotten. Theſe birds, during the ſummer ſeaſon, are found in great abundance on the South Downs, where, to catch them, the ſhepherds make little holes about a foot long and ſix inches broad, in which they place ſnares of horſe-hair; the birds, being fearful of rain, run into theſe holes for ſhelter, on the approach of every cloud, and are caught in great numbers.

SECTION

Bayham Abbey.

SECTION XV.

FROM Tunbridge Wells our river Medway, in a very narrow ſtream, winds it ſpiral courſe towards the elegant remains of Bayham Abbey; I call them elegant; a phraſe that may by ſome be deemed an improper epithet; but if ever the word could be applied to ruinated ſcenery, it certainly is here admiſſible. The cluſtered Gothic pillars, the broken pointed arches and richly ſculptured ornaments, all mouldering into decay and tufted here and there with the ſhaggy moſs and creeping ivy, render it an aſſemblage of objects equally beautiful in the eye of the painter, and the contemplation of the moraliſt. Lo!

" Paſſion ſleeps while mouldering ruins ſpeak;
" Methinks I hear ſome furrow'd Monk relate,
" What frenzy urg'd to Bayham's ſtill retreat;

" With

" With vain regret, in penſive mood declare
" I fought at Agincourt, my trade was war;
" But quitting honor, and ambition's road,
" Sought an aſylum in this houſe of God."

THIS venerable and extenſive ruin was formerly an Abbey of Premonſtratenſian or White Canons, an order founded about the year 1120, at Premonſtre, in France, from whence it derives its appellation. Their habit was a white caſſock, with a rochet over it, and a long white cloak. This religious order was introduced into England as early as the reign of King Stephen. The priory was originally eſtabliſhed in the neighbourhood of Maidſtone; but the Monks pretending not to like the air of that place, or thinking that they might have addreſs to procure a better, ſhewed a diſſatisfaction in the enjoyment of this ſpot.

THE influence of a Monk's rhetoric over the ſofter ſex, has become almoſt proverbial:

in

in this caſe they applied that talent ſo dexterouſly, as to prevail on the daughter of their founder, Ralph De Dene, who bore the appellation of Ela De Sackville, to remove them to Bayham, or, as it was then called, (in the reign of Richard I.) Begeham Abbey. By this lady, and other pious patrons, this Abbey was largely endowed, and, probably, from theſe liberal benefactions, became one of the firſt that Cardinal Wolſey laid his clutches on, to enable him to proſecute the plan of founding his Colleges of Ipſwich and Oxford. Amidſt theſe charming ruins, Mr. Pratt, their owner, has built a good houſe, and ſomewhat in the Gothic ſtyle, that it may aſſimilate with the taſte of the adjoining ruins. This gentleman is nephew to Earl Camden, a name diſtinguiſhed in the annals of this country, and deeply impreſſed in the breaſt of every Engliſhman who admires the fabric of our excellent conſtitution.

HAVING followed the courſe of our river Medway through its various meandrings to this much admired ſpot, its ſtream from hence may be deemed ſo inſignificant as to render any further purſuit of it unneceſſary.

I CANNOT, however, take leave of the banks of this River, fertile and beautiful as I have found it in every part, without paying an equal tribute of reſpect and admiration to that high character by which the men of Kent have been ſo renowned above thoſe of every other part of our much-envied iſland. The united teſtimonies of the great, the brave and the learned, may be truly adduced in ſupport of this poſition. Time has done away the ſuſpicion of flattery on their part, and truth, by the conſent of ages, has ſtamped an indelible authority on their names. Cæſar highly commended their humanity. Lambarde himſelf, a venerable authority, in his perambulations,

bulations, bears honorable record of their fame, and adds the weight of a name of much higher antiquity, that of Gervaſius, to prove "That the foreward in all battells "belongeth to them (by a certain pre-"eminence) in right of their manhoode. "It is agreed by all men, that there "were never any bondsmen (or villaines, "as the law calleth them) in Kent." Theſe perſonal immunities were doubtleſs the rewards of perſonal courage; and there ſeems as little doubt that the men of Kent had an unqueſtionable title to theſe diſtinctions; as our poet Drayton, in his Poly Olbion, which includes the hiſtory of every other county in the realm, has emphatically recited them.

"Of all the *Engliſh* ſhires be thoſe ſurnam'd the *Free*,
"And *foremoſt* ever plac'd when they ſhall reckon'd be."

THE aſſertion of Lambarde is confirmed by Camden. He quotes from the polycra-

tion of John of Saliſbury the following ſentence :—" As a reward of that ſignal " courage which our KENT, with great might " and ſteadineſs, ſhewed againſt the Danes, " they do to this day lay claim to the honour " of the firſt ranks, and the firſt charge in " all engagements." And he farther quotes Malmeſbury, who ſays in their praiſe, " The country people and the citizens in " KENT, retain the ſpirit of that ancient no- " bility, above the reſt of the Engliſh ; being " more ready to afford reſpect and kind en- " tertainment to others, and leſs inclinable " to revenge injuries.

THE ſame idea of the military proweſs of the men of Kent, and their foremoſt claims to the poſt of honor, and danger, which has been ſupported by ſuch numerous, and reſpectable teſtimonies, amongſt the earlieſt authors of our national hiſtory, ſeems to have been adopted by an elegant writer of the preſent

century;

century; and extended as far as rhetorical figures, and the licence of poetical language, can carry it. He firſt ſtates the popular, and moſt probably fabulous, tradition, that this iſland once formed a part of the Continent, and was, by ſome convulſion of the earth or irruption of the ocean, diſſevered or divided from the coaſt of France; and then, in thoſe ſtruggles between two nations, whom nature herſelf, by the poſition of their reſpective territories, has for ever conſtituted rivals for the commerce of the world and dominion of the ſeas, does not heſitate, in the name of the genius of his country, to foretell, that by the arm of the inhabitants of Kent, the power of France ſhall be broken:—thus, in the vigour of its exertions, making this ſingle county repreſent the whole iſland: and in the ſame ſpirit he concludes, that the produce almoſt of this county alone, ſhall have a decided ſuperiority over the boaſted

boaſted produce of the whole nation of France.

Now on fair Dover's topmoſt cliff I'll ſtand,
And look with ſcorn and triumph on proud France.
Of yore an iſthmus, jutting from this coaſt,
Join'd the Britannic to the Gallic ſhore;
But Neptune on a day, with fury fir'd,
Rear'd his tremendous trident, ſmote the earth,
And broke th' unnatural union at a blow.——
"'Twixt you and you, my ſervants and my ſons,
"Be there (he cried) eternal diſcord.—France
"Shall bow the neck to Cantium's peerleſs offſpring,
"And as the oak reigns lordly o'er the ſhrub,
"So ſhall the hop have homage from the vine."

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